



Jefferson
County
Public
Schools

Parent Connection eNews

News from Jefferson County Public
Schools

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Board members are hosting Community Conversations



Community Conversations give parents and other community members a chance to discuss the strategies that the Jefferson County Public School (JCPS) District is using to improve schools and raise student achievement.

Jefferson County Board of Education (JCBE) Chair Diane Porter and JCPS Superintendent Donna Hargens hosted the first Community Conversation at Lincoln Elementary Performing Arts School on Tues., Sept. 3.

David Jones Jr., District 2 representative, will host the next meeting on **Wed., Sept. 25**, at Jefferson County Traditional Middle School (JCTMS) at 6:30 p.m.

[Click here](#) for a schedule of other Community Conversations. (Need to know which JCBE member represents you? Use the [Find a Board Member tool.](#))

Community Conversations support the JCPS [Strategic Plan: Vision 2015](#), which calls for increased stakeholder engagement and encourages parents and community members to help enrich students' educational experiences and support their success.

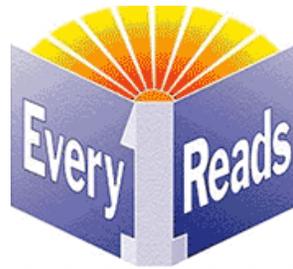
How do PLCs help students? See for yourself

JCPS is inviting parents and other community members to join Professional Learning Community (PLC) Rounds. They offer opportunities to observe a few of the regular meetings that teachers hold to discuss student achievement and share instructional strategies.

The first PLC Round will be held at Fern Creek Traditional High on **Fri., Sept. 27**, 8:30 to 10 a.m. If you would like to attend, call Veronda Hawkins at **485-3506**. Before the PLC, you'll learn how the meetings work. After the PLC, you'll have a chance to discuss what you saw.

One PLC Round meeting per month is scheduled through next April. [Click here](#) for the schedule and more information.

JCPS and Louisville Metro Government call for Every 1 Reads volunteers



Superintendent Donna Hargens and Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer have issued a new call for community members to become Every 1 Reads volunteers. The goal is to have 1,500 new volunteers registered by the end of September.

Every 1 Reads is a communitywide initiative designed to help JCPS students reach proficiency in literacy. Launched in 2004, the initiative matches volunteers with students in schools and at Out-of-School Time Learning Place sites. Volunteers receive training in how to help Novice and Apprentice readers. Then the volunteers meet with one student for a half-hour each week throughout the school year. [Click here](#) for more information.

Priority schools offer extended learning time

The 18 JCPS Priority Schools have now begun offering extended learning time opportunities for students who need or want extra support.

- These opportunities will serve more than 5,100 students at any one time. Students are selected to participate based on assessment data.
- The initiative will provide 198 additional hours of learning.
- The additional time is used for interventions primarily in reading, writing, and math.
- To assess the initiative, students who participate will be designated as Extended School Participants, and JCPS will compile a report based on their Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP)

achievement levels.

New PTA president focuses on programs and student success



"Children succeed when families, schools, and communities work together," say Heather Wampler, who was elected to serve as 15th District Parent Teacher Association (PTA) president for the 2013-15 term.

Wampler and her husband, Brian, have a son, Noah, who is an eighth grader at Westport Middle. She started volunteering for the PTA when Noah started kindergarten. On the school level, she has served as PTA vice president, secretary, treasurer, and president. She started serving on the 15th District board in 2011.

Wampler says her goals as 15th District president are "student success, advocacy, and programs," including free workshops on the Common Core State Standards, bullying, and texting and driving. "We are working on a few more [programs that] we hope to be able to offer after the first of the year," she says.

She also points out that the PTA's Clothing Assistance Program (CAP) "has been around for 41 years. If families with kids who go to a Jefferson County Public School need assistance with clothing -- whether they go to a uniform or a non-uniform school -- we are here to help take that barrier away, and the kids can be in the classroom learning."



Read *Parent Connection* as an online magazine

The printed JCS *Parent Connection* newsletter is now also available as an [online magazine](#). You can flip the virtual pages, go full screen, zoom in, and even click the Web links.

Highlights of the September issue include the following. Click any title to jump directly to the article:

[Community Schools serve the whole family](#)

[Educators say JCS is a good place to teach](#)

[Board of Education frequently asked questions](#)

[New Aquatic Center benefits students and the community](#)

[Environmental science students are hitting the trail](#)

Watch the award-winning *Our Kids* TV program

Highlights of the [September episode](#) include the following:

- First day of school at Tully Elementary and Carrithers Middle
- Western High School Early College Program
- Wellington Elementary's YMCA Camp
- Watterson Elementary at Gilda's Club
- Blake Elementary has mentors from Humana
- Luhr Elementary shows Lion Pride
- Youth Performing Arts School (YPAS) techies
- Thomas Jefferson Middle Communications Magnet Program



USDA official and Congressman Yarmuth visit Jacob Elementary

Elementary

JCPS is using a USDA Farm to School grant to incorporate more local foods into school meals. To show support for the district's efforts and highlight farm-to-school initiatives throughout the nation, Janey Thornton, USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, and Congressman John Yarmuth joined Jacob Elementary students for lunch last month. To watch a brief (1:22) video about the visit, [click here](#).

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