Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome back to another great year at Thomas Jefferson Primary School. We are very excited about the upcoming school year and hope that you are too. Our teachers and staff are anxious to start working with students again and can’t wait to get the school year started.

Our number one focus this year is student achievement and engagement. We will continue with our school-wide balanced literacy program which allows us to individualize and personalize the Literacy curriculum for your child. We are dedicated to providing every student with a safe, nurturing, and positive learning environment. Our expectations and goals for all students are high. Together, as a team, we will work to help all students achieve.

Attendance will be another important focus for the year. We want to make sure students are here daily and on time. Please work with your child and teacher to make sure he/she is here and ready to learn each day. By keeping absences and tardies low, students are able to be a part of the learning process daily and not miss out on instructional time.

As you prepare for the new school year, please plan to take time to get to know your child’s teachers and be involved in school activities. These relationships provide great support for your child and reinforce the importance of school. You are also invited to join the PTO and support the students and staff of Thomas Jefferson. We appreciate your help in any way.

Due to COVID-19, most students will be on a Blended Virtual A/B Learning Schedule. Students’ temperatures will be checked each day when they arrive at school. Students must bring hand sanitizer to school and must wear a face mask while in school and on the school bus.

**Important Dates and Information:**
- **Monday, August 17, 2020** - Unpack your backpack – 5:00 – 6:30
- **Tuesday, August 18, 2020** – Kindergarten Welcome! Tours and meet your teacher - 10:00 - 12:00
- **Wednesday, August 19, 2020** - all schools - First day of school

**REMINDERS FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR:**

**First Day Compliance for the 2020-2021 school year – August 19, 2020**

Due to COVID-19, Peoria Public Schools will not be enforcing first day compliance for the 2020/21 school year. We will instead follow the due date set by the State.

* Returning **Students To The District**

* Online student registration can be completed through the online enrollment verification process by logging onto Skyward Family Access and clicking on the Enrollment Verification link. A school may request a current proof of address, if needed.
* Students starting at a new school (either because of a change of address or graduating out of his/her previous school) will still need to enroll and present proof of address paperwork. Please log into Family Access throughout the summer to keep your phone number and email up-to-date.

* The FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL is Wednesday, August 19th. This will be a FULL DAY of school. School hours will be 9:30 to 3 p.m. Please WRITE A NOTE to let your child’s teacher know how your child is getting home from school. Unpack your backpack is August 17th from 5:00 –6:30. Mark your calendar!

* Students are expected to be IN UNIFORM on the first day & every day. If students are not in uniform, someone from the school will be contacting you about making sure your child attends school in uniform each day.

* Our BEFORE & AFTER CHILDCARE PROGRAM is facilitated through the Peoria YMCA. This program provides supervision from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information about fees, please call the YMCA at 309-692-7631.

* SCHOOL HOURS, DROP-OFF & PICK-UP: The school day is 9:30-3 p.m.; however, students can enter the building at 9:15 a.m. When school is dismissed, it is important that children be picked up promptly. Please make sure your student is picked up no later than 3:10 p.m. Also, make sure your child’s teacher is informed about any pick-up procedures that may be different from your normal routine. If you are making changes to your child’s transportation please notify the office before 2 p.m. This is to ensure student safety, which is our number one priority. By working together, we can help ensure success for everyone.

* PARENTS OF CAR RIDERS: Please note that we are trying to make the morning and afternoon parent drop-off routine as efficient and safe as possible. We ask that parents be patient as well as efficient when dropping off and picking up students. Your patience allows us to dismiss all students safely. Please park in the back playground lot and come into the gym to get your child. Remember a PHOTO ID is always required and you must be on their EMERGENCY CONTACT list in order to pick up a student from school. Staff members have been assigned to be on duty beginning at 9:15 a.m. for arrival and until 3:10 p.m. for dismissal to help with these procedures. Please follow their directives and help make the process as smooth as possible for everyone.

* MEDICATION FORMS: In order for your child to receive ANY medication here at school (this includes inhalers), we must have the following items:

1. A completed medication form signed by you and your child’s doctor.

2. The medication here at school in the office or with the school nurse in a labeled medicine bottle.

No child should be sent to school with medicine in their backpack. Parents must drop off medication and forms in the office. Medication forms can be picked up at school or accessed on the district’s website and downloaded at home. Your doctor may fax completed forms to us at school using our fax number, which is 309-672-6527. If your child was on the medication last year, and it was not picked up, we CAN NOT use that medicine. By law, new paperwork and medicine must be completed and given to us. This is important for all students with health needs!

We look forward to spending another great year with your child/children.

Sincerely,

Kary Boerger
Principal
Thomas Jefferson Primary School

❖ Certain aspects of the 2020-2021 school year may be subject to change due to the effects of COVID-19. Rest assured, if any changes happen, we will keep you informed and updated on those changes.