Jefferson County Public Schools April 2016

From the Desk of the Principal

Parents and Guardians,

As we prepare for Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) testing and other end-of-the-year activities, we are reminded of the awesome school year we have shared. During this school year, we have experienced successes and challenges, both of which shape who we are. Our students have been actively involved in rigorous and engaging lessons, all of which will prepare them for the next level.

This year, we had the opportunity to update our mission statement, develop our vision statement, and revise our dress code policy. We want to ensure that everything we do here at Carrithers is student-centered and done with our students' best interest in mind.

Our new vision and mission statements are as follows:

Vision

All Carrithers Middle School, students will be inspired to excel academically and socially to become productive citizens and future leaders. In our school community, all students will progress toward proficiency in all content areas.

Mission

Our mission is to increase the achievement and growth of every student through effective and engaging teaching and learning strategies. Together, utilizing rigorous academic standards, we will prepare our students to be productive citizens who are committed to learning.

Please continue to check Parent Portal, stay in contact with your child's teachers, and check our website for upcoming events.

M. Alerise 7. Williams Principal

www.jcpsky.net

From the Assistant Principal

As we wind down the last few weeks of school, parents, remind your child to put forth his or her best effort with school work. Students are responsible for getting makeup work if they have been absent. Conduct becomes even more important as end-of-theyear activities are planned by teachers. This includes behavior on the bus. We would like all students to be able to participate in all programs.

Also, please sign up for the Carrithers text message system. This communication tool allows students and parents to receive text messages directly from the school. The process is very simple. Text @carrit to 81010 and follow the prompts to confirm your identity. You will receive a text message from the school about news and upcoming events. You can opt out at any time by texting "unsubscribe @carrit" to 81010. It is our hope that this system will help increase communication and keep everyone on the same page about things happening at Carrithers. If you have any questions, contact the assistant principal at **485-8224**.

Mr. Watts, Assistant Principal

Empty Ink Cartridges

Carrithers participates in a recycling pro-

gram through Funding Factory. We send in empty desk-jet and laser-jet cartridges as a small fundraiser sponsored by the Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP). Please send used items to school with your child or bring them to the front office for us to recycle through this program. If you go to the Funding Factory website at **www .fundingfactory.com**, you can see a list of items they will accept to help us in this process. Thank you for helping us take care of our environment.

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Funding

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Library Notes

"Come with me," Mom says. "To the library. Books and summertime Go together." —Lisa Schroder



Thank you for supporting your school and library by being great customers for Carrithers library's buy-one-get-one-free **Best Book Fair in the World**. All the money spent at the book fair goes straight back into the library to buy new books. This event supports all kinds of reading. Especially summertime reading.

Summertime reading is when students can relax and pick what they want to read—no one telling them what they must read and when to read it. I think summer is a great time for children to share what they have read with their parents and friends. This self-selection of reading material sparks motivation for young readers and can lead to "I wonder" questions, creativity, and a desire to expand their choices for reading.

As writer Lisa Schroder wrote, "Books and summertime go together."

Lucy H. Kright Library Media Specialist

Yearbooks For Sale

Yearbooks may be purchased for \$30. Cash or a check (made out to Carrithers Middle School) can be given



to Ms. Hays in Room 134 (front computer lab). Yearbooks will arrive in early May.



Counselors' Corner

As we approach the final weeks of school, here are a few reminders and upcoming events we would like you to be aware of:

- A big welcome to our incoming sixth graders! We are so excited to meet each and every one of you. Middle school is an exciting time, and we will do our best to assist you in the transition from elementary school. We will be holding a Sixth-Grade Orientation before the school year starts. Information about the orientation and other events will be sent to you in the mail in June. Welcome to the Carrithers Family!
- We have planned a week of fun activities for the eighth graders. An informational letter was sent home at the end of March. Attached to the letter was a sheet for the parent/guardian to sign and return to school to let us know you received the letter. If you have any questions, call Mrs. LaFollette at **485-8224**.
- Eighth-Grade Parents, if your child was participating in the Extended School Services (ESS) Module Course Recovery Program, please make sure he or she has completed all of the necessary requirements to be promoted to the ninth grade.
- A middle school student must pass a minimum of two-thirds of courses taken, which must include the following:
 - —Sixth grade: language arts and math
 - --- Seventh grade: language arts, math, and science

- Eighth grade: language arts; math; social studies; and a score of Apprentice, Proficient, or Distinguished on both the language arts and math K-PREP assessment in seventh grade. If your child scored Novice, he or she has been enrolled in modules and must complete his or her module(s) to be promoted.
- If your child passes two-thirds of the classes taken but has not passed any of the courses listed above, he or she will be required to show competency by successfully completing school- or district-designed competency modules during the current or following school year.
- K-PREP testing will begin **May 9**. Please make sure your child is prepared with a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast, and arrives to school on time.
- Don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

It has been an eventful year. We appreciate the time and support from all of our families. As spring and summer approach, we hope you find time to enjoy the weather and spend time with the ones you love. We look forward to seeing everyone in the fall. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Counseling Office before **June 2** or after **July 11**. Have a wonderful summer!

Robbyn LaFollette and Jessica Pike School Counselors

Youth Services Center Happenings

The winter months were busy ones, and spring is now here. We are getting ready for some more excitement. I would like to give a **big thanks** to the University of Louisville (UofL), Boys' and Girls' Haven, and the Neighborhood Place for providing much needed groups for our students in which to participate. The groups that these agencies provide are an invaluable resource to our students.

It is now time to turn our attention to upcoming testing. It is very important that Carrithers students get plenty of rest and that they eat a healthy breakfast each morning. We know that testing can be a grueling process but with proper nutrition and plenty of sleep, your child will rise to the top. Many of our students suffer from test anxiety. There are some great ways to combat this. The website http://kidshealth.org/en/teens/test-anxiety has some great tips to help your child conquer test anxiety.

The Youth Services Center (YSC) can always use your donations of gently used uniforms. These donations help our students when emergencies arise. Thank you in advance for all of your donations. Have a great spring!

Mrs. Gilbert

Sixth Grade

Winner's Circle Team

Social Studies

As this school year winds down, I would like to remind everyone that it is not yet time to quit working. There is still much work to be done. We will wrap up our study of Africa and move on to Asia followed by Australia and Antarctica before the school year ends. Social studies prepares students to be responsible and knowledgeable adults. Social studies teaches students about the world around them and their impact on it. Please emphasize to your child the importance of these things as he or she relates to them both personally and globally.

At this time of year, it is important that students stay focused and continue to work hard. Appropriate school behavior and academic success go hand in hand. Encourage your child to **actively participate** in class every day. Class work and homework are equally important. Please monitor and encourage your child to complete and turn in all work on time. We still have a lot of things to learn, places to visit, and work to do. Support your child and encourage him or her to work hard, be respectful to teachers, staff, other students, and themselves so that we will end the school year on a positive note.

Mus. Jolley Science

Mr. Noonan's sixth-grade science classes are studying weather as their final unit. We are exploring the many factors that cause the water cycle and other factors that determine our weather and climate. Students are investigating and discussing the water cycle and how it shapes our world today. They are analyzing weather patterns and how climate affects a region of the world. The final step will be a project on severe storms and their effect on the life, infrastructure, and economics of a region. Projects were assigned the first week back from Spring Break and will be due after testing.

Reminder: Yearbooks For Sale

Yearbooks may be purchased for \$30. Cash or a check (made out to Carrithers Middle School) can be given to Ms. Hays in Room 134 (front computer lab). Yearbooks will arrive in early May.



Seventh Grade

Team Jedi

Our team is looking forward to an enriching and valuable remainder of the school year. Even though we have almost completed the 2015-16 year, there is still material and curriculum to be covered.

We will continue to implement the Common Core Standards in literacy. We will work on argument and informational reading, contrasting and comparing multiple formats, the techniques of choosing appropriate multiplechoice answers, and learning new strategies to answer the challenging types of questions that will be seen on the test. We will continue to work on finding textual evidence in all of our reading and implement the ELA standards. We will also continue to analyze and interpret informational and literary text, both of which will be seen on the K-PREP test.

We feel all students will do a great job of

Sixth Grade

Team Awesome

Math

The end of school is right around the corner, and every student and teacher is looking forward to it. But we must keep in mind that before we even begin to wind down the end of the year, students need to stay focused and game up all the way to the last day. During the remainder of the year, students will investigate volume and surface area of 3-D shapes, analyze and make inferences from data displays; construct bar graphs and line plots; and analyze data statistics of mean, median, mode, and range all in real-world settings. You should see your child working on homework at least two nights a week. All students are being consistently reviewed on sixth-grade content via bell ringers, exit slips, and entrance slips. Also, be sure to view Parent Portal for your child's grades. If he or she is missing assignments, work with him or her to find out what is missing and get it turned in as soon as possible. Discuss with your child the responsibility of completing assignments on time. If there are any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to email me at lori.waldrop@jefferson.kyschools.us.

Language Arts

In sixth-grade language arts, Mr. Khufu's classes will be honing their essay writing skills by practicing on-demand writing,

performing well on the K-PREP test, which will be administered the last two weeks of May. Encourage your child to read daily! Reading Counts tests are still being implemented. Advance Program students will be required to read two books and take the two tests. Homework is given weekly, so please encourage your child to complete all required work.

Mrs. Brown

In the science classroom, we will be winding up Waves and beginning Energy, Forces, and Fields. Students need to keep up with their lab book work at school and at home. **Fossweb.com** is a really good resource for practicing your science skills. It is important that students still maintain a good work ethic throughout the rest of the year so that they will be prepared for finals.

Mrs. Dever

and they will also be researching a career that interests them when they grow up. The Career Research Project will be to create a PowerPoint presentation and present it to the class. Students will research whether college is required for the career, how many years of college are needed, whether a postgraduate degree is needed, and skills or personality traits that would be beneficial for the job. Lastly, Mr. Khufu's language arts class will begin reading *Rite of Passage*.

Social Studies

What a wonderful year it has been in the sixth grade! We are finishing our school year very strong and now are ready for the K-PREP test. This year, we have studied most of the countries across the globe. We have studied North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and will finish the last part of the year in Australia. Remember, parents, make sure your child is reviewing notes every night. Study skills learned in sixth grade are lasting skills to be used throughout your child's school career. This helps to retain anything that was taught and it can help clear up any confusion or misunderstandings about the day's notes. Let's continue to have a great rest of the year.



The year has gone by quickly in math. The students have done a good job in working with standards in math. As we move into Geometry, Data, and Statistics, it will be important to keep students focused on finishing the year on a strong note, so they can be prepared for the eighth-grade standards. We will continue to have regular assignments, quizzes, and tests as part of our regular routine. Please help your child maintain his or her focus by making sure he or she has school supplies, checking over assignments, and asking to see graded papers. I have enjoyed working with your child this year.

Mrs. Stovall

In social studies, students will continue to develop their understanding of world government, civics, history, geography, economics, culture, and society. These underlying principles of social studies will be encouraged during lessons involving the Renaissance and Europe's transition into the modern world. Other lessons will include sub-Saharan Africa, Early American civilizations, and Asian cultures.

Mr. House

Ronald McDonald House

Save pull-tabs from aluminum cans to help support the Ronald McDonald House right here in Louisville. As a way to participate in community service, we have been collecting pull-tabs for many years at CMS. This is one easy way for our students to give back to the community by helping support others who use Ronald McDonald House when they have a family member hospitalized during a lengthy illness. If you do not know about the Ronald McDonald House and what it does, visit its website at **www.rmhc.org**/. Help us to continue this support by saving your

pull-tabs. Your child can bring them into the school office or deliver them to Room 124. Get into the habit of saving your pull-tabs—it's a great habit to have.



Seventh Grade

Leaping Lizards Team

Science

Two Carrithers students were recently invited to Frankfort to visit the Governor's Mansion and tour the Capitol building for their recent efforts in the Louisville Regional Science Fair. This was a huge honor considering this was a statewide contest. The Leaping Lizards team wrapped up our latest unit on waves and how they interact with matter. Students mastered the differences between mechanical and electromagnetic waves and how they apply to our daily lives. For the next unit, we are diving into is a brand new pilot unit for seventh grade called Energy, Forces, and Fields. The three main focus topics of study include kinetic and potential energy, gravitational fields, and electromagnetic fields.

Mr. Blue

Math

Before Spring Break, we covered statistics and probabilities. Students were able to use hands-on manipulative to see if predicted data matches actual data that students collect. Upon returning from Spring Break, we got started on our Geometry units. Volume, Surface Areas, and Angles will be our focus topics until testing in May. Check out **www .kaylapilcher.weebly.com** for any more updates and extra credit.

Ms. Pilcher

World History

We've completed the European Middle Ages. Students had some very nice and interesting Coat-of-Arms projects. We will be wrapping up our final units: Islamic and African Civilizations, Medieval China and Japan, and finishing the Renaissance and Europe in transition before the end-of-year testing. We have come a long way from Prehistoric Man! Hopefully, students will come away with some knowledge of how our modern world has been shaped by all of those ancient peoples from so long ago.

Mr. Arderson

Language Arts

For the Leaping Lizards Team, the language arts classes have recently completed a unit on the different aspects of culture. The texts that we read focused mostly on the connection between culture and food, but we also discussed traditions, clothes, music, art, language, history, values, and more. The students also completed a My Cultural Perspective activity that loosely tied to a Coatof-Arms project they completed with their social studies curriculum.

Furthermore, students are beginning to review concepts used throughout the year to better prepare them for K-PREP testing. This includes preparation in concepts such as theme, plot, making and supporting inferences, point-of-view, text structures, and literary devices. Upon completion of this block of 13 lessons, students should feel confident and prepared.

Ms. Vickers

Related Arts Department

Technology and Pre-Engineering

Our eighth-grade engineering students have been using some computer-aided design (CAD) programs, such as ModelSmart, to learn how to design and build model bridges that can be tested and analyzed within the computer program. The seventh grade is studying alternative energy resources and have constructed solar cars. Our sixth graders are learning about robots.

All of the pre-engineering students will be learning to code in the weeks at the end of the school year.

Engineering Club

Our Robotics Team attended the Robot Rumble competition at Ramsey Middle School in February. We had contestants in the RCX Avalanche Challenge and the Sumobot contest. We did not place in the top ten in the state, but we learned a lot and we are definitely improving!

We are now getting our cardboard boats ready for the upcoming regatta.

JoAnn Nall Technology and Pre-Engineering

Computer 2

Seventh-grade Computer 2 students have been working hard to learn about computer applications. Around the time this newsletter is mailed, we will have just completed the final round of the 21-Century Assessment, which is completed by all seventh graders throughout the district. Students in all three rotations of the course have worked very hard to earn the technology proficiency now required for high school graduation. As the year comes to a close, we will work on our keyboarding skills to improve our speed and accuracy. We will also complete some projects using the technology skills we have worked on for the last nine weeks.

Mus. Fentuess

Music Notes

The music department is working hard! We are preparing for our performances at the Music in the Parks Festival in May. This is

an exciting opportunity for our music groups to compete against other groups from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Kentucky. The daylong trip is Saturday **May 21**. After the performance, we will be going to King's Island enjoy the rest of the day! Parents, look for more information about this event soon. We also want to congratulate our groups on their outstanding performances at the Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) District 12 Festival Assessment. Information about our final concerts of the season will be sent home with students as soon as the information is available. Thank you for you continued support in our music programs.

Incoming Sixth-Grade Students:

If you're interested in being in the band, chorus, or orchestra in middle school, **we would love to have you**! You do not need any previous experience. Please talk to one of the counselors during orientation to sign up for our outstanding music programs. If you have any questions, email the appropriate director. Band—christopher.bullock@jefferson .kyschools.us; Chorus—alisha.bruce

@jefferson.kyschools.us;
Orchestra—caia.cross
@jefferson.kyschools
.us. We can't wait to see you next year!

Eighth Grade

Team Power Rangers

Math

Eighth-grade students on the Power Rangers team are proving that they are indeed super heroes. Even though the school year is winding down, they are still actively engaged in their math studies. Accelerated/Honors math students are focused on quadratic equations, parabolas, inequalities, absolute value equations, and learning how to use TI-

NSpire graphing calculators. Many students are becoming graphing calculator experts and using this knowledge to deeply learn math content and share their expertise with

classmates! Comprehensive students are honing their math skills by applying their knowledge of geometry to real-world situations involving transformations, similar figures, angle-side relationships, and volume of regular and irregular shapes.

Mrs. Der)ore

Eighth Grade

Team Blue Steel

Social Studies

Students are currently learning about the causes and results of the Civil War. Students have explored why the western expansion of the United States in the 1800s contributed to the growing debate over slavery and its expansion. Students will soon begin the K-PREP test, which includes social studies for the first and only time during grades six through eight.

Please double-check that all of your child's arrangements for high school are finalized and that they are ready to go in August. We on the Blue Steel Team have enjoyed getting to know all of the students this year and wish them luck in the future.

Mr. Snider

Academic News ~~~~

The Carrithers Quick Recall team scored very well this year in league play, thanks to really fine students at each grade level. We hosted the District Governor's Cup in January. The following students placed at District competition:

- Mathematics: Daniel Melnikov—Third Place
- Language Arts: Veronica Blissett—Fourth Place
- Arts and Humanities: Sariah Ramirez-First Place, and An- Kiesean Turpin gela Ramirez-Third Place
- **Composition:** Kelsey Heard—First Place, and Evelyn Khong-Second Place

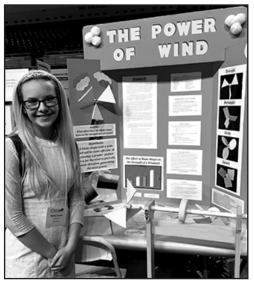
Kelsey Heard placed second at regionals and advanced to the state competition, where she finished eleventh out of 126!

STEM Science Fair

Carrithers won second place overall and \$225 in the Junior Division of the Louisville Regional Science and Engineering Fair for middle schools. Two students were invited to tour the Governor's Mansion and the Capitol and attend presentations in the House and Senate.

Individual Awards

• Hannah Martin-First place and \$60 in Energy: Physical for her project "The Power of Wind." Hannah will move on to state competition next month.



Hannah Martin-First place for her project "The Power of Wind."



We held the Annual Carrithers Spelling Bee in March, and it was won by sixth grader Heather Browne.

sity (WKU) in April.

We held the National Geographic

Bee in December before Winter

Break. It was quite a battle, and

rounds of tough questions about

Turpin, an eighth grader on the

honor. Kiesean tested and scored

dents in Kentucky and competed

at the State National Geographic

Bee at Western Kentucky Univer-

within the top 100 Geography stu-

the world. In the end, Kiesean

Power Rangers team, won the

our students stood through 12

We are very proud of our Carrithers scholars!

JoAnn Nall, Academic Coordinator

- Parker Cummins—\$50 from Kentucky Gas Association, \$30 from Averitt Express, and a model semi-truck for his project in Energy: Chemical, "What Makes Metal Rust Faster"
- Kayliana Dunham—\$50 from the Gibson Family Award for creating a solution to a real-world problem in Biomedical Engineering, "Melding Gelatin"

Each of the following won \$30 from Delta Kappa Gamma (Theta Chapter) for Aspiring Young Scientist awards:

- Skylar Locke-Engineering Mechanics: "A Good Mix"
- Khushi Randev-Environmental Engineering: "Which Method Is Best for Melting Icy

Pavements?'

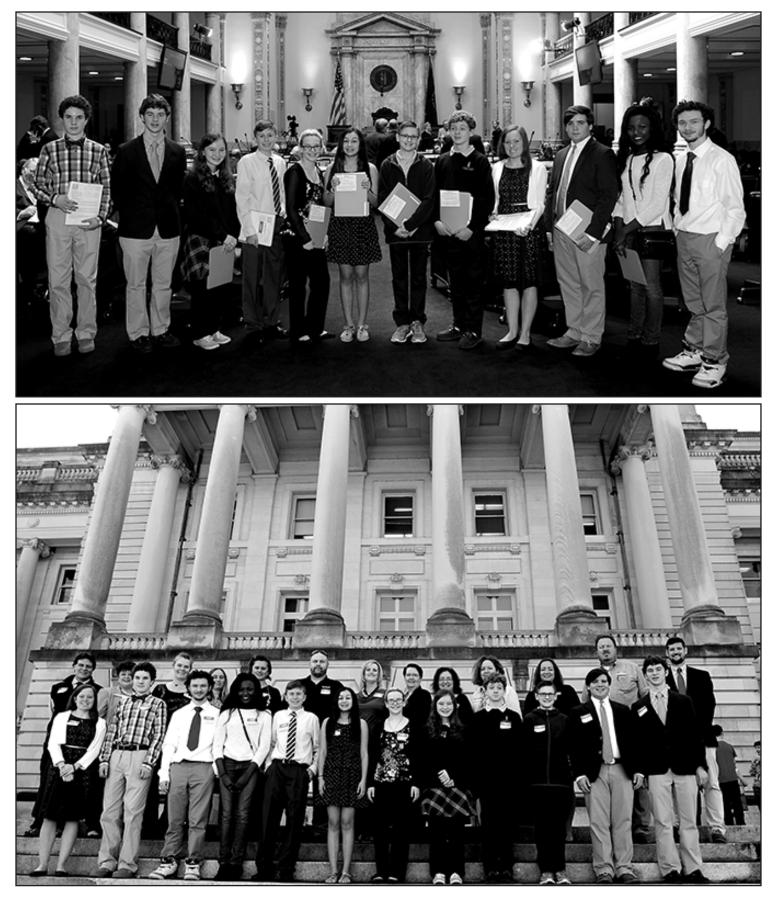
- Mackenzie Engle-Biochemistry: "Crystallization Time"
- Kelsev Heard-Embedded Systems: "Effects of Fonts"



Hannah Martin-Second place for her project at the Kentucky Science and Engineering Fair.

Advocacy Day at the Capitol

Two Carrithers students, Hannah Martin and Melina O'Bryan, represented Carrithers on Advocacy Day at the Capitol in Frankfort for the Louisville Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Sean Blue, teacher, and parent Debi Martin accompanied them on a tour through the Governor's Mansion and during presentations made to the students in the House and in the Senate.



Student Technology Leadership Program

Penny Boat Challenge

At their March 31 meeting, students participated in a Penny Boat Challenge. Who could make a boat that would float and hold the most pennies? Students had one sheet of construction paper, ten straws, some aluminum foil, tape, and a small plastic cup. Michael made the winning boat that held 104 pennies before it sank. Way to go, Michael.



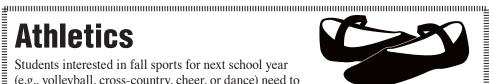
Tower Fun at STLP

With just 12 pieces of copy paper, the students were able to support 5 reference books, 11 reams of paper, and 3 boxes of folders-more than 60 pounds! No one else's tower even came close. Way to go, Kaleb and Michael for winning the Tower Challenge at the Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP).



3-D Printer

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our 3-D printer! We can't wait to end the year by creating some 3-D designs using Tinkercad and making plans for 3-D fundraisers next year.









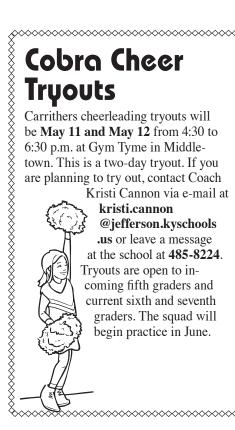
Congratulations to the seventh- and eighth-grade boys' basketball team on an outstanding 2015-16



season. We finished with a 14-6 record, and we were runner-up in the Jr. Louisville International Tournament (LIT), the city's middle school championship. While this year's team had a great win-loss record and enjoyed their share of big victories and emotional defeats, the games of this past season will eventually fade into fragmented memories. In the end, the measure of success is not the statistics or wins, rather it is the relationships we built, life lessons learned, and maturing that are a direct result of hard work, selfless commitment to the team, and dedication to personal betterment. The student athletes of the 2015-16 Carrithers Cobra Boys' Basketball Team were truly successful. I am proud of each and every one of them because they were tremendous representatives of our school and community. They were an absolute pleasure to coach. Thanks for the great iourney.

Coach Pass

Team members: Montae Eaves, Devin Randel, Thomas Dozier, Antwan Lockhart, Jeremy Simpson, Collin Cummins, Julian Pirtle, Darnell Wright, Turner Adams, Matt Moore, Taevon Dozier, and Jalen Jones and managers Ellington Wells and Dillon Rhodes





Equal Opportunity Policies

Equal Employment Opportunity Employees/Applicants

The Jefferson County Public School District shall not discriminate in recruitment or employment on the basis of age, color, disability, marital or parental status, national origin, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, religion, genetic information, or political affiliations or beliefs. The District shall promote equal opportunities through a vigorous affirmative action program as an integral part of personnel policy and practice in the employment, development, advancement, and treatment of employees of the Jefferson County Public Schools.

In the Event of Questions

Employees or applicants, report to immediate superior, the appropriate personnel administrator, the Compliance and Investigations Office, or the appropriate enforcement agency if you believe you have experienced harassment/discrimination.

Equal Educational Opportunity Students/Parents or Guardians

No student shall be denied equal educational opportunity by the board of education because of his or her age, color, disability, marital or parental status, national origin, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliations or beliefs, or religion.

Harassment/Discrimination of any type is not permitted. A student has the right to attend school free from harassment and should not be subjected to discrimination for any reason. Schools will strive to ensure that these rights are protected and that appropriate consequences are provided to offenders.

In the Event of Questions

Students and parents/guardians, report to principal, the Compliance and Investigations Office, or the appropriate government agency if you believe you have experienced harassment/discrimination.

Noncompliance with the above policy and procedures may result in disciplinary action.

Discrimination Grievance Procedure

The Jefferson County Public Schools Discrimination Grievance Procedure is available at local schools, on the Jefferson County Public Schools website at **www.jefferson.kyschools.us**, or in the Compliance and Investigations Office, C. B. Young Jr. Service Center, 3001 Crittenden Drive, Louisville, KY 40209. Contact Dr. Georgia Hampton, Compliance and Investigations director, at **485-3341**, or call or write one of the following enforcement agencies:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

600 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Place, Suite 268 Louisville, KY 40202 (502) 582-6082 | www.eeoc.gov

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights

Wanamaker Building, Suite 515 100 Penn Square East Philadelphia, PA 19107-3323 (215) 656-8541 | www.ed.gov

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

The Heyburn Building, Suite 1400 332 West Broadway Louisville, KY 40202 (502) 595-4024 | http://kchr.ky.gov

Louisville Metro

Human Relations Commission 410 West Chestnut Street, Suite 300A Louisville, KY 40202 (502) 574-3631 | www.louisvilleky.gov/HumanRelations

