

NEWSLETTER

JEFFERSON
DECEMBER 2024

Dear Jefferson Elementary Families,

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the values that make our school community so special: sharing, caring, and kindness. During this time of year, it's important that we come together to celebrate not only the joy of the holidays but also the spirit of giving and compassion that helps us grow stronger as a school family.

At Jefferson, we teach our students that the act of sharing—whether it's time, kindness, or resources—creates a sense of belonging and support for one another. It's a wonderful reminder that small acts of care can have a big impact, whether it's helping a friend in need, showing gratitude, or simply offering a smile.

I encourage our students to embrace the season by thinking about how they can make a positive difference in the lives of others. Let us all take the opportunity to share moments of warmth, respect, and empathy within our school and in the wider community.

Wishing all our families a peaceful, joyful holiday season filled with love, laughter, and togetherness. Thank you for your continued support in making Jefferson Elementary a nurturing and caring environment for all.

Holiday Sing

Kindergarten December 16th at 6pm
1st Grade December 17th at 6pm
2nd Grade December 17th at 7pm

Holiday Lights Fundraiser

December 20th
Corner of Cedar/Browning
(Jefferson corner block)

Ms. Raddatz house will be decorated and hot chocolate by donation

Supporting MAPS Fine Arts Boosters





Staff Highlight

From a young age, I always knew I wanted to become a teacher. My journey began as a teenager when I worked as a summer camp counselor, and it continued after high school when I started working for Head Start. This experience led me to pursue a degree in Elementary Education. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to work with children from birth through 5th grade, which has been incredibly rewarding. I don't have a single favorite subject because I just love learning, and each age group brings its own unique challenges and rewards.

I've been teaching for quite a while now—since 1999, to be exact, when I started in early childhood education at Head Start. I joined MAPS in 2021 as a literacy coach and now have the privilege of being the K-2 SPED teacher. One of the things I love most about teaching is watching my students build their confidence and realize their potential when they are given the right tools and support.

Outside of the classroom, I enjoy being in nature. Camping, hiking, and fishing are a few of my favorite outdoor activities. I'm also passionate about kayaking, and I love being on the water in every season. On a more personal note, I'm married, and my son graduated last spring. He's off to the Coast Guard in February. We also have three dogs, and we love traveling as a family.

An interesting little fact about me is that my favorite food is sushi! It's become a tradition in our family to make it at home every Thanksgiving.



Spread Kindness

- Description: Create a kindness calendar with daily acts of kindness for the family to complete together. Each day could feature a simple, kind action such as helping a sibling, writing a thank-you note, or donating gently used toys.
- How to Do It: Print out a blank calendar or make your own, then fill in each day with a new activity. Some ideas: "Make a card for a neighbor," "Give a compliment to a family member," "Help with a household chore without being asked."