

January 2025

JEFFERSON NEWSLETTER

Jefferson Families,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break, and are ready to kick off a fresh, exciting semester at Jefferson.

Starting this January, we are introducing a renewed focus on our school-wide initiative, “Mariners Are On Track.” This initiative will highlight the core values that help make our school community strong—values that include being trustworthy, respectful, accepting, cooperative, and kind. We believe that by embodying these values, our students will not only thrive academically, but also grow into compassionate and responsible individuals who contribute positively to our school and beyond.

Throughout the coming months, we will be integrating these principles into our daily routines, classroom activities, and school-wide events, and we encourage families to have conversations at home about how we can all support and model these behaviors in our interactions.

Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our students succeed and grow. Together, we can make this a wonderful and impactful year!



WELCOME BACK!

[HTTPS://WWW.MANISTEEMARINERS.ORG/](https://www.manisteamariners.org/)



Stay Warm!
Please make sure
your child brings
warm gear for
recess.
If you need help
with gear, please
contact our office.
We have extra!

Punctuality Matters

IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR

5 MINUTES
Late Each Day
= 3 Days
Off In Total



Staff Highlight

McAnn Bradford's journey into teaching began when she was just a little girl. "When I was young, my mom would take my brother and me to the store, and we each got to pick out one toy," she recalls. "He would always pick a toy car, and I would pick an educational workbook." McAnn laughs, remembering how she would teach her brother everything in her workbook—whether he wanted to learn it or not. "I was always drawn to teaching and helping others learn," she says, a spark of nostalgia in her eyes.

Now, after 31 years in the classroom, McAnn's passion for teaching has only grown stronger. "My favorite subject to teach in second grade is math," she shares enthusiastically. "I love teaching different strategies, and I encourage my students to pick and choose which strategies work best for them." In her classroom, students use small whiteboards, creating a no-pressure environment where they can take chances and make mistakes. "They practice math problems and explain their strategies to the class. Games, whiteboards, and partner work make math a lot of fun!" she adds with a smile.

Over the course of her career, McAnn has taught in both the KND school district and MAPS, where she's currently in her seventh year. "This is my 31st year of teaching," she says proudly. "I spent 24 years in KND and now I'm loving my time at MAPS. What keeps me going is knowing that I'm making a difference in my students' lives and their education. Plus, the hugs are free!"

While McAnn still loves many aspects of teaching, it's the impact she has on her students that keeps her motivated. "The best part of teaching is making a difference in the lives of little ones. It's so rewarding to know that I'm helping shape their future," she reflects.

Outside of the classroom, McAnn has a variety of hobbies that keep her busy. "In the summer, I love to float down the river in my kayak with my mom. It's one of my favorite activities." She also enjoys walking and spending time outdoors when she can.

McAnn also shares that she's a proud dog lover. "We have a Rottweiler named Moses who has visited my classroom a few times," she says. "I also have a rescue bulldog/pitbull named Otis, who was wild when I adopted him but is now a lazy couch potato. And we recently rescued a stray dog named Murphy." McAnn is also working on a special project—writing a book about Murphy that she plans to release after her retirement. "It's a story about how this little stray dog has changed our lives," she says. "It's something I'm really looking forward to."