



Chief Joseph Elementary School Family Bulletin 09/5/2023

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All-School News

Welcome to week two of the 2023-24 school year. I really appreciate getting a chance to see our students, families, and staff connect and build on the strong community we have established. You can expect to receive a family bulletin from us every two weeks with important information about what is happening in the school community.

Your [classroom teacher](#) is the first point of contact at the school. We have a number of staff available to support you, your student, and the teacher with more complex issues.

These include:

Amber Gerber, Principal: agerber@pps.net
Shoshana Oswald, School Counselor: soswald@pps.net
Jennifer Whitaker, School Climate Spec.: jwhitaker@pps.net
Jennifer Lopez, Learning Center Teacher: jlopez@pps.net
TBD, School Social Worker

Our students start every morning with a Morning Meeting, which is time set aside to get to know our classmates, learn the day's agenda and hear important announcements. Please do your best to get students to school with enough time to be in class and ready to go by 8:45.

We are fortunate to be a [CEP](#) school again this year, which means that breakfast and lunch is free to all students. You can access the menu online at <https://www.pps.net/Page/214>.

There is a lot of valuable information in your welcome packet, specifically the calendar and handbook. Please make time to review all of the important information, and let us know if you have any questions.

*A strong, diverse
and respectful
community where
we make learning
creative and fun!*

Upcoming Events

9/5/2023 - Back to School Picnic @ Arbor Lodge Park 5:00-7:00 pm

9/13/23 - PTO Meeting. Doors open at 6, meeting starts at 6:30pm - 7:30pm

9/26/2023 - Back to School Night

10/5/23 - CJES Picture Day

10/12/23 - Fun-D Run

10/13/23 - Teacher Professional Planning Day/No School

Attendance FAQs:

If my student is absent, who do I notify?

You can call the school @ 503.916.6255, or email the classroom teacher and front office staff:

School Secretary, Ashley Gale: agale@pps.net

Principal Secretary, Michelle Rowley: mirowley@pps.net

Teacher emails are available on our website: <https://www.pps.net/domain/4116>

If I need to pick my student up early, what is the procedure?

When you arrive at school, buzz the office, and you can come in. We will call the student down. If during lunch, or recess, this process can take up to 10 minutes, so please plan accordingly.

Please avoid early pick-up after 2:45. This is a very busy time for teachers and the front office.

Art Studio Update



Hello Chief Joseph community, my name is George Gostovich and I have the honor to be the new art teacher here, (Thursdays and Fridays) and at Chapman school on Mon. Tues. and half of Wednesday. I am looking forward to a great year of art with the kids!

Staff Spotlight - Coming soon!

Hello, it's Ashley in the front office and I just wanted to let you know that I plan to include a staff spotlight so you can get to know all of the wonderful teachers, staff and administrators in our community. I don't have a spotlight for this week's family bulletin but will work to have one in the next edition.

Testing Update:

Hello Chief Joseph Elementary School Families! My name is Julia Fogg and I'm the Instructional Coach and Testing Coordinator for our amazing school. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about either of my roles: jfogg@pps.net.

The focus of the month of September is building a strong learning community by getting to know our students both personally and academically. Students will work on class activities and take several assessments that help provide teachers with a clearer picture of what each student knows and is ready to learn. Teachers will then be able to plan instruction that meets the individual needs of their students.

When your child comes home and says “we took a test today” we want you to know what that means! These benchmarking assessments occur across PPS in the Fall, Winter and Spring. Each of these assessments is computer-based and adaptive, which means the level of difficulty will change depending on each student’s answers. In addition to the assessments below teachers will also gather additional information on students depending on the grade level.

- K-2 MAP Reading Fluency: This assessment measures beginning reader skills, like letter and word knowledge, and it measures oral reading for children who are ready. It is also used as an initial Dyslexia screening tool. Students will use headsets to record their reading. This is a new tool in PPS for 2023-2024.
- 3-8 MAP Growth in both Reading and Math: This assessment checks students’ performance by measuring achievement and growth in our literacy and math standards.
- K-5 i-Ready Math Diagnostic: This assessment is connected to our K-5 math curriculum and the goal is to figure out the mathematics level that is “just right” for each student. It measures student’s progress toward mastering grade-level standards and identifies students’ strengths and where they’ll benefit from more support. Results will be connected to students’ My Path account where they can work on individualized math instruction.

Backpack Program

The Backpack Program supports our community by providing food bags for weekend days when food scarcity is higher. We receive pre-packed bags from [Portland Backpack](#), which contain enough food for 2 days of breakfast and lunch. We add fresh fruit and distribute the bags to classrooms.

We need weekly donations of fruit. If you are interested, please click the link below to sign up. Fruit can be delivered to the office on Wednesdays, to be packed Thursday morning.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F44AEAB2FA1F49-fruit>

We are always in need of extra food. We would love to have enough extra meals on hand to add into the bags for 3 day weekends and longer breaks. Suggested items include:

- Canned tuna or chicken
- Pop Top Soup/Chili
- Peanut butter
- Granola bars
- Mac and Cheese

Any donations can be brought to the front office and are greatly appreciated.

We have a great team of volunteers to pack and distribute bags. We’d love to add 1-2 more folks who would be willing to make a regular commitment. Packing happens on Thursday mornings and takes about 20 minutes. If you are interested, please email backpack@chiefjosephschool.org.

The Backpack Program would like to thank New Seasons Market for donating fresh fruit!



PTO Update:

PTO First Meeting:

The PTO's first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, September 13th. We will meet in the cafeteria at the school. Doors for the meeting will open at 6:00pm, and the meeting will run from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. You are welcome to bring your student and any siblings to the meeting. We will have dinner provided, so please message info@chiefjosephschool.org if you have any dietary needs. We will always have a vegetarian option available.

Afterschool Programming Available:

After school Program information!

Last year we were really lucky to have some great groups that offered additional after school programming options and many are excited to return. I will send fliers in the first family bulletin but wanted to get information out so families can check out the options. Sign up is open for all of these programs.

- **Northwest Children's Theater** - for students in grades 2-5
Runs Sept 13- Nov 15th
- **Portland Early Learning - Adventures in Spanish** - For students in grades K-3rd. Now only one offering on Thursdays.
Thursdays, September 21st - May 23rd 3:00pm-4:00pm
- **Yoga Playgrounds** - for students in K-3rd
Tuesday's September 19th - Dec 12

Stay Connected with the PTO!

If you haven't already connected with the PTO through remind, please sign up to receive timely updates and to stay in touch. You have to opt into receiving communication online here: <https://www.remind.com/join/cjpto>.

PTO Volunteers Needed!

The school and the PTO are in need of volunteers for many things throughout the year. You should have received information regarding volunteering in the welcome packet that was sent home with your student. Please refer to the handout, or this website <https://www.pps.net/volunteer> to start the process of getting cleared to be a volunteer for the school. Just a reminder that clearance does expire, so you can email securityservices@pps.net to check if your clearance is still active.

- We already have a specific volunteer need for our school: Thursday, Sept. 14 is Chief Joseph's day to send 5-6 volunteers to the PPS Clothing Closet, from 9:30am -1:30pm.

- The Clothing Closet operates fully on donations and volunteer contributions of time, providing clothing and shoes so that students can feel good about attending school. Last school year the Clothing Closet was able to assist 1,060 PPS Students!

Please sign up to confirm you are available to volunteer for the Clothing Closet on Sept. 14: <https://signup.com/go/wPjzMzJ>

The Clothing Closet is located at the Marshall (Benson HS) Campus; 3905 SE 91st. Additional details will be sent to you after you sign up. Contact Mandy at volunteer@chiefjosephschool.org with questions.

Community News:

The Arbor Lodge Neighborhood Association is hosting its first Jazz in the Park event on Saturday, September 9th from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM. We welcome everyone in the community and hope that you can join us for musical performances from the Lorna Baxter Septet.

Bring a chair, a picnic blanket, and your friends and families to enjoy this exciting evening with us! See you there! Feel free to share this event with your networks from our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages!

