



# Chief Joseph Elementary School

## Family Bulletin

### 9.9.2019

Translation provided by Google Translator. There may be errors. Please call PPS Language Line, 503.916.3589 for support with translation.

### All School News

Dear Families,

We have had an amazing start to the school year. It has been so great to see all those smiling faces, eager to be back in school. I also wanted to give a big thank you for coming out to Community Care Day! You make such a big difference. You may not be aware, but we are famous...check out this [great video from CCD](#).



As I mentioned in my welcome back letter, we are using Caring School Community curriculum this year. Your student is beginning every day with morning circle, where they have the opportunity to greet each other by name and review what will be happening throughout the day. There is also a closing at the end of the day, where students celebrate the day's accomplishments and say goodbye. Along with these community building routines, teachers teach a weekly lesson on social skills, including conflict management and emotional

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

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### Upcoming Events

#### PTO Meeting

Wednesday, 9.18.19  
6:00-8:00 pm  
Dinner & childcare provided

#### Back to School Night

Thursday, 9.19.19  
5:30-7:00 pm  
7:00-7:30 pm TAG

#### Principal's Coffee

Friday, 9.20.19  
9:00 am

#### Picture Day

Thursday, 9.26.19

#### Custodian Appreciation Day

Wednesday, 10.2.19

#### Statewide Inservice Day NO SCHOOL

Friday, 10.11.19

regulation. Teaching students how to successfully manage conflict is an important aspect of public education, as reinforced by the recent unveiling of PPS's vision. As part of this process, we have developed a PPS [Graduate Portrait](#), which identifies the essential characteristics in the young adults that are graduating from our school system. I would like to focus on two of these, "Inclusive and Collaborative Problem Solvers" and "Powerful and Effective Communicators" in relationship to our work with Caring School Communities, Restorative Justice, and PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). In an effort to develop citizens that effectively communicate within diverse groups, and successfully collaborate in inclusive environments, it is vital that we teach students skills to address and resolve conflict. This is done through proactively building a strong sense of community where all students belong and explicitly teaching and providing opportunities to practice managing emotions and conflict. It is also essential that students have both opportunity and guidance in addressing and repairing relationships when harm does occur.

We use these principles, in conjunction with the [PPS Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook](#) when responding to conflict between students. It is important to build common language among students, parents and staff around the term "bully" which can often be mis-used and can alienate students who may already be marginalized. Bullying is repeated, targeted behavior in which a person uses their power over another individual to cause harm or create fear. Power can come in many forms, such as physical strength, social status or access to information. Our school takes bullying very seriously. We have placed [Bullying and Harassment Reporting Forms](#) throughout the building, and encourage students to report issues, which elicit immediate response from staff. We explicitly teach students how to identify, respond and report bullying. Finally, I encourage parents to contact us if there is an unresolved conflict happening at school. Talk regularly with your students about what is happening in school and if you hear of a conflict that doesn't appear to have been successfully resolved, please reach out to the classroom teacher and let them know your student's concern. If necessary, the classroom teacher will involve the support staff for assistance in resolving conflicts that are occurring outside of the classroom or don't seem to be improving. You may also contact [me](#), [Ms. Whitaker](#), or [Ms. Lynn](#) if you feel a specific situation needs to be addressed outside of the classroom. By working together, we can help all students feel safe and connected in our community.

I also wanted to let you know that the district facilities department is here this morning, September 9th, to test the carbon dioxide levels in our classrooms. I have asked facilities to prepare a communication with the test results, as well as a description of the work that has been done to improve air quality. Please look for this information in the next couple of weeks.

I would like to end by expressing my gratitude for your continued commitment to our school and all of our students. I am extremely proud to be the principal of such an amazing school!

Sincerely,

Amber Gerber

## Parent Teacher Organization (PTO!)



Your PTO Board: Kimberly, Gretchen, Jess, Erin, Rachel, and Erica

We're excited to connect with you at our first PTO meeting coming up:

**September 18th, 6-7:30pm (dinner served at 6 / childcare provided) in the Chief Joseph Library**

Until then, there are lots of ways to start volunteering and supporting!

Keep a lookout for information on our plant bulb fundraiser and Chinookbook coming home next week with your child.

AND, you can always find opportunities here:

Website + Store: [www.chiefjosephschool.org](http://www.chiefjosephschool.org)

Follow us on Facebook: [@chiefjosephschool](https://www.facebook.com/chiefjosephschool)

Email your questions & ideas:

[president@chiefjosephschool.org](mailto:president@chiefjosephschool.org)

[volunteer@chiefjosephschool.org](mailto:volunteer@chiefjosephschool.org)

Interested in quick PTO reminders? We are on the Remind App! Text "@cjpt" to 81010. Opt-out anytime.

## TAG News

Ms. Michels will be delivering a short presentation following visits to classrooms on Back to School night. Please meet in the library at 7pm if you would like information on the TAG program at Chief Joseph Elementary School.

## Counseling Corner

Hello Families,

Welcome back to another fabulous school year! I am very excited to announce that I have a counseling intern, Hayden Atlas, who will be working with me throughout the school year. Hayden grew up in Portland and attended Portland Public Schools as a child. She started her college career at Portland Community College then finished up her Psychology degree at Portland State University. Before becoming a school counseling intern, she was a paraeducator at a middle school in SE Portland. Currently, she is a Walden University student finishing up her master's degree. She will be helping me with group work, student skill building and classroom guidance lessons. We are very excited to have her join the team this year!

Additionally, I want to remind families about the importance of attendance and how poor attendance can impact your child's academic success. A study in California found that children in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade who are chronically absent are far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. It's also important to make sure students get to school on time as being tardy starts to add up. Let's say your child is only 10 minutes late each school day. That adds up to 1,750 minutes which is almost 30 hours of school missed in one year! THAT IS A BIG DEAL!

We will continue with our attendance letters and phone calls this year to inform you of how your student's absences are accumulating. Please reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or if there is anything the school can do to help remove barriers that might be impacting your child's attendance. You can contact me at 503-916-6234 or at [espiers@pps.net](mailto:espiers@pps.net).

Have a great day!  
Lynn Spiers, School Counselor