



# Chief Joseph Elementary School

## Family Bulletin

### 9.12.18

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

Dear Families,

I am really looking forward to seeing everybody at the PTO meeting this Wednesday! Our Parent Teacher Organization is very dedicated to supporting the success of all our students. PTO is a great way to be connected to the school community.

Many of you have asked how our staffing numbers are determined, and what decisions are made at the building level. This year we received direct allocation from the district for the number of classroom teachers at each grade level. Additionally, the office staff, counselor, Special Education staff, PE, library, and arts are funded directly by the district. At the building level, I made decisions about how to use district Equity funds and Foundation funds awarded by All Hands Raised. These additional funds have been used for two ½ time educational assistants. The assistants support our 1st/2nd grade blended classroom, kindergarten Early Reading Intervention, and 3rd grade literacy. These grades and classes were prioritized because of class sizes and/or the important reading milestones at the grade level. I also chose to create a School Climate Specialist position. Ms. Whitaker works with teachers and students to strengthen our climate at ensure our school is a place students want to be. The final decision made at the building level was to increase the school secretary to full time. In addition to manning the office, Ms. Holme is working with Ms. Spiers on our attendance initiatives. I hope this provides some clarity.

On Friday, Ms. Whitaker and Ms. Spiers sent out letters to students who signed up for Jr. Coaches or Leadership. These groups had their first meeting on Monday. Safety Patrol will be meeting soon. I am really excited to see students stepping up to take on these positions of responsibility. If your 4th or 5th grade student is still

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

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## Upcoming Events

### PTO Meeting

Wednesday, 9/12  
6:00 pm  
Dinner Provided

### Principal's Coffee

Friday, 9/21  
9:00 am

### Back to School Night

Tuesday, 9/25  
6:00-7:30 pm  
7:30 TAG information

### Picture Day

Thursday, 9/27

### Custodian Appreciation Day

Monday, 10/1

### Site Council

Wednesday, 10/3

### PTO Meeting

Wednesday, 10/10  
6:00 pm  
Dinner Provided

interested, please have them continue to turn in their forms. At this point, we are beginning a wait list. We hope to have a leadership spot for everybody who wants one!

Amber Gerber

## PTO News

The first PTO meeting of the year is next **Wednesday, September 12th** at 6pm in the Library. Come learn more and sign up for volunteer opportunities. We need your ideas and experience to help with our fun, free community events like Harvest Fest and Movie Nights, and fundraisers that support our GROW Garden School, field trips, and more! Dinner and childcare always provided, and there are no fees to join!

Here is our agenda:

- Introductions
- Overview of our PTO Volunteering and Fundraising
- Principal Amber with Curriculum and Staffing update
- Wrap Up

We look forward to seeing you there!

Contact PTO:

[www.chiefjosephschool.org](http://www.chiefjosephschool.org)

@chiefjosephschool on Facebook

Info@chiefjosephschool.org

CJ PTO is on the Remind App!

Just text the message "@cjpt" to 81010 to sign up for short reminders. Opt-out anytime.

## TAG News

Your TAG coordinator this year is Rose Michels. There will be a slideshow presentation followed by a Q&A session at 7:30pm on September 25, in the library. This is on Back to School Night. If you have questions or suggestions please bring them to the meeting. See you then!

## Counselor Corner

No School

Friday, 10/12

Harvest Festival

Friday, 10/26

No School

Monday, 10/29

Hello and welcome back to another great year! This year has been off to a great start! I wanted to continue that momentum and take a second to remind our families about the importance of attendance. Did you know:

- Students who miss 10% of the school year (or 17 days throughout the year) are considered chronically absent
- This number includes excused AND unexcused absences
- Missing 10% or more of the school year can make it harder to learn to read
- Attendance is one of the three school success indicators reflected in our school's report card issued yearly by the state
- When students reduce absences, they can make great academic gains

Last year, 15.5% of Chief Joseph students were chronically absent. We are working to decrease that number this year and in the years to come by providing outreach, school wide attendance awareness, and resources to students and families.

If you have any questions about your child's attendance or if you need resources for your family to help support school attendance, don't hesitate to call the main office or me, Lynn Spiers, our school counselor at 503 -916- 6234!

Additionally, I have started my annual Superflex lessons in kindergarten. If you have a kindergarten student make sure to ask about Superflex and how he defeats Rock Brain!

## Library News

Welcome back to a new school year! This year we have gotten off to a great start and students have been busy checking out books! I am really enjoying all the pictures being sent in of the different places students were reading this summer! If you haven't already, please stop by and check out the bulletin board and the changes in the Library.

Some changes in the Borrowing Policy this year are:

**Kindergarten:** 1 book out at a time; Kindergarten will begin checking out this week.

**1st Grade:** 2 books out at a time (1 book of their choice and 1 leveled reader)

**2nd Grade:** 2 books out at a time

**3rd Grade:** 3 books out at a time

**4th Grade:** 4 books out at a time

**5th Grade:** 5 books out at a time

We are in need of Parent Volunteers Mondays & Tuesdays (mornings and afternoons) and Wednesday afternoons. If you would like to come help check books in and out, help re-shelve books, and help students find new books please email me at [bhall@pps.net](mailto:bhall@pps.net).

Please check out our re-designed Library page for more information, including links to our Wish List and SchoolPay: <https://www.pps.net/domain/4120>.

Looking forward to a wonderful year ~ Mrs. Hall

## Music News

Welcome to Music Class in room 10. Being in the building will make transitions easier, and the space is bigger. Come on by and take a look!

Kindergarten and Grade 1 students will be spending much of the year solidifying steady beat and elemental rhythms. They will work on matching pitch. They will play mostly rhythm instruments, and do movement and games that teach improvisational thinking and conducting.

Grades 2-3 will be learning to read musical notation, starting with rhythmic and moving to notes on the staff. They will be using the barred percussion instruments and non-pitched instruments. They will be learning about singing in tune with a natural, beautiful tone.

This year, grades 4-5 will be doing a new curriculum through Carnegie Hall, that culminates in an interactive concert with the Oregon Symphony in the spring. It is called "The Orchestra Swings", and involves singing, choreography and recorder playing with the orchestra.

Students will be using "bucket seats" to facilitate better posture and easier use of instruments. They are a little rough to sit on for long periods of time, so here's where you can help. Cushions will be sewn to make them more comfortable. If you would like to donate a "fat square" or ¼ yard of cotton fabric that has images representing your family culture, please drop it by the office by September 14, 2018.

If you have a musical artifact that you are willing to loan to display for a week or two, please contact me to schedule it. A

demonstration would be very interesting for our students.

Look for a survey to be sent home about what your family's musical participation is. You can share musical information about your student and family. This will also give you a chance to communicate your interest and special skills for volunteering in the music classroom.

Also coming soon is a special opportunity for Grade 5 students. Oregon Music Educators Association (OMEA) All-State Conference will be in Portland this year. I will be auditioning grade 5 students who are interested for the Elementary Honor Choir. This must be done before the end of September. Be sure to let me know if your child is interested. Later in the year there will be another opportunity for 5th graders with the PPS Elementary Honor Choir. This is going to be a busy year with our two evening performance events, "The Orchestra Swings", All-State and "The Heart Of Portland" Elementary Honor Choir.

I look forward to getting to know my families better this year. My email is [jschrepping@pps.net](mailto:jschrepping@pps.net).

Sincerely, Jane Schrepping, Music Teacher