Welcome to Thomas Jefferson Elementary!!

Mrs. Farah’s Kindergarten Class

Theme: “The Race for Space” 2020-2021
We Are Two Schools in One!!!

**Brick and Mortar**

- Students report to TJ for class
- Teachers provide instructional materials in the classroom.
- All teachers are from TJ.
- Parents drop-off school supplies and all laptops, chargers, and hotspots that were checked out last year on Monday, August 17th, from 9:00-12:00.
- Most of the safety precautions mentioned in this presentation apply to this group.

**Duval HomeRoom**

- Students take class online in Microsoft Teams.
- Parents pick-up instructional materials at TJ on Monday, August 17th, from 1:00-2:00.
- All homeroom teachers for our students are from TJ, but some classes are shared by teachers at Garden City Elementary.
My name is Suzanne Farah and I am excited to be your child’s kindergarten teacher this school year! Although things will be different, we will persevere! About me, this is my 18th year teaching, all in kindergarten, all at Thomas Jefferson, all in room 64! I was Thomas Jefferson’s Teacher of the Year last school year. Needless to say, I love this age group! I’ve been married for almost 13 years and we have one amazing first grade son who also attends school at TJ.
SAFETY

★ We are implementing a combination of social distancing and use of face coverings to ensure safety of the students and staff.

★ Safety procedures for students at TJ:
  ☆ Temperature checks
  ☆ Wearing face coverings
  ☆ Hand washing or sanitizing upon entering class, prior to transitions, and returning to class
  ☆ Separating student desks with shield in grades 3-5
Face Coverings

★ Students will need to wear face coverings when...
☆ Boarding the bus
☆ Entering the building
☆ Being dismissed from school
☆ In the classroom
☆ Transitioning in the hallways
☆ In the Cafeteria line
The district will provide students with one face covering that will be kept at school.

- K-5 students will receive a face mask.
- K-2 students will receive a face shield.

We suggest that parents provide students with a 5-day supply to wear during the week.

- Masks must provide coverage of student’s mouth and nose.
- The district-provided mask will be kept in the classroom as a back-up.
★ Parents **MUST** sign into FOCUS and register their children to ride the bus.

★ After August 4, parents can sign back into FOCUS to see the specific bus number, bus stop, and bus time.
Parents will need the following apps on phone or computer to effectively communicate throughout the year:

★ FOCUS
★ Microsoft Teams
★ Class Dojo
★ You can...

☆ Check student grades and assignments
☆ Check student attendance
☆ Register for bus transportation
Teams

★ You can...
☆ Have virtual meetings with your child’s teacher

★ Students can...
☆ Participate in Duval HomeRoom
★ You can...

☆ View posts, reminders, and photos from the teacher

☆ Communicate with the teacher

☆ See work posted by your own child

Morning Arrival Procedures

- Students are allowed on campus no earlier than 8:00, unless they are enrolled in morning Extended Day, which begins at 7:00.

- Parents drop off their children at the carport (not the bus loading zone) from 8:00-8:25. After that time they must drop them off at the front office.

- Students in grades K, 1, 3, 4, and 5 will sit in the hallways in front of their classrooms, spaced apart and wearing masks. Students in grade 2 will sit in the cafeteria, spaced apart and wearing masks. Students whose classrooms are portables will sit in the hallways with their grade levels.
Temperature Checks

- Car rider students will have temperatures checked prior to getting out of the car. Please have them sit next to a window and put on a mask prior to temperature check. If a student has a temperature of 100.4 or greater, he/she will return home with the parent.

- Bus rider students will have temperatures checked as they get off the bus. If a student has a temperature of 100.4 or greater, he/she will be taken to the isolation room and the parent will be contacted for pick-up. It is extremely critical that parent contact information is accurate at that parents are available in case pick-up is needed.
School is dismissed at 3:00. Students may only be on campus after 3:10 if they are enrolled in an afternoon club or Extended Day. (There are no clubs or after-school activities at this time.)

Driving parents pick up their children from the carport only. If due to an emergency parents arrive after 3:10, they must pick them up at the front office.

Carport students will sit spaced as far apart as possible and will wear masks. Grades 4-5 will sit outside and grades K-3 will sit in nearby hallways.
On the first day of school, parents will have to show identification to pick-up their children from carport. Parents should be prepared to do this until the carport staff is familiar with them. The carport staff will give parents a sign to display every day while picking up their children at carport. We ask that the parent attach the sign to a pants hanger (with two clips) and hang it on the mirror. If there is a change in driver, the parent/guardian will need to provide written notification no later than 2:15 (by note, student agenda, or calling the main office). If the replacement driver is unfamiliar to the carport staff, that person will be asked to show identification. If the change in driver is not verified, the driver will be directed to the main office to resolve the issue.
Afternoon Bus/Walker Dismissal

★ Bus students will report to buses when they hear their bus called. They will wear masks while waiting and when boarding/riding the bus.

★ Bus students in grades K-1 will sit in the front hallway, spaced as far apart as possible, and will wear masks. Grades 2-5 will wait in their classrooms and will wear masks.

★ Walkers will be dismissed at 3:00 and will wear masks until they have left campus.
Parents may now register for Extended Day online only at www.duvalschools.org/extendedday. The monthly cost is still $52 for the morning and $100 for the afternoon.
Knowing How Students Go Home

★ Please communicate to the teacher how your child will go home the first day and on a regular basis. Teachers will need to tag students to identify whether they are car riders, bus riders, walkers, or Extended Day students.

★ Bus riders will have to be registered in Focus to be allowed to ride. Parents should do that immediately.

★ Kindergarten parents will complete a specific dismissal form. Kindergarten bus riders will not be left at the bus stop if no one is there to meet them after school.
As of now, all students will participate in virtual learning on Early Release Days.*

Students will NOT report to the school.

*Subject to change by DCPS
READING (ELA)

★ In kindergarten, students are encouraged to read 100 books to meet their reading goal. Book logs will be sent home in their Home Learning/Behavior Folders.

★ Kindergarteners are also expected to spend 45 a week on iReady Reading at school.

★ iReady is in the Blended Learning section on the DCPS website.

★ Kindergarten will be using Reading Mastery and Ready Reading for quarters 1 through 4 and will be introduced to the new Florida B.E.S.T. standards during quarter 4. B.E.S.T. stands for Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking.
-kindergarteners are also expected to spend 45 minutes a week on iReady Math at school. iReady Math is in the Blended Learning folder section on the DCPS website.

- Kindergarten will be introduced to the new Florida B.E.S.T. standards during quarter 1. B.E.S.T. stands for Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking.
Science activities and experiments will be done weekly in class.
Homework will be given every Monday and should be completed and returned on Friday of the that week. Students will receive 10 points (5 points for math and 5 points for reading) for correctly completed packets. Students should be completing the homework on their own with adult assistance as needed.
Special Projects

★ Multiple Intelligences projects will be assigned based on a parent survey and will be due in January.
Classroom Management/Conduct Grade

★ We teach our students to make good choices. We expect the students to follow the class rules each day. The students' behavior cards will be moved after a warning.

★ Home Learning/Behavior folders will be sent home everyday with a behavior grade. S+=Excellent, S=Satisfactory, S-= Needs Improvement, and N= Unsatisfactory.
All TJ students receive FREE breakfast and lunch.

Breakfast is served in the classroom.

Every effort will be made to provide a socially distant lunch environment.

Giving my friends some space.
★ Students will have daily recess.
★ Classes will practice social distancing while at recess.
★ Students will not be required to wear their face coverings during this time.
★ Students will be removed from the play area if safe practices are not followed.
Resource Classes

★ Art, Music, and Media
  ✪ Will be taught in the homeroom classes.

★ PE will be taught outside or in homeroom classes (during inclement weather). Please make sure your child wears the appropriate shoes.
Students will participate in daily and monthly wellness programs:

- Calm Classroom
- Sanford Harmony
- Wellness Wednesday
Communication

★ I will communicate with you through emails, Class Dojo, and Home Learning/Behavior folders. All calls, emails (farahs@duvalschools.org), and Class Dojo messages will be returned within 24 hours.

★ Parent conferences will take place virtually in Teams and can be scheduled by calling the front office at 693-7500.

★ Emergency Contacts – Please list the names and numbers of any individuals you may need to rely on in the event of an emergency. We will not release students to adults not listed on the information card.
Volunteers

Thomas Jefferson is currently unable to allow any volunteers or parents in the building to ensure the safety of our students and staff. We still love our volunteers!

★ District Screening Requirements - Please visit www.duvalschools.org and click on the Volunteer link under the Parent tab. Clearance is good for 2 years and required to attend field trips.

★ School Volunteer Orientation - Required to volunteer at TJ. It will be offered virtually this year. Details will be coming soon.
Field Trips

Field trips are suspended until further notice.

★ We will keep students and parents updated as we receive information from the district.

★ Younger siblings, students from other grade levels and students from other schools MAY NOT attend field trips.

★ Grade levels will inform parents if class shirts are being ordered this year.
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

- Seeks to strengthen the connection between school and home
- Contributes to positive school climate by providing incentives for students, teachers, and staff
- Recruits business partners that offer resources to our school
- Allows parents, teachers, and staff to collaborate on ideas for school improvement
- Serves as an organized body of volunteers for school functions
- PTA dues are $5.00 per person
- Virtual meeting dates will be announced soon
We would love to have one parent representative per class.

★ SAC is the “behind the scenes” work of school instructional improvement.
★ We value and need parent input.
★ Our first meeting will be virtual and the date will be announced soon.

We would love to have one parent representative per class.
Thank you for joining us in “The Race for Space”!

Have a wonderful year at TJ!