

From the Principal.....

Students and Parents:

Let me begin by thanking parents and students for their hard work for the first semester of school. We have many things to celebrate, including our student attendance, which has been up each consecutive month this year compared to last year; a new culture and focus on relationships between staff and students through our CARE for Kids program; and increased involvement in our PTSA and our Parent Night Programs. Even though we're improving, there remains much work to be done for this school year.

As we begin second semester, we will focus on achieving our goals for CATS this year. Our mantra is "achieving the dream," and our dream is as our Vision states, "Every Child Proficient." We are determined to achieve that dream! We are continuing to look for ways to boost our Parent Involvement Program with a new round of programs for 2009. Building relationships with our students through our Club Day program on Wednesdays and the implementation of CARE for Kids will remain a priority. Last, we will continue to celebrate student success with our Student of the Week Program, Honor Roll program, and our CATS Scholar Program.

I have no doubt that our best is yet to come. If you have any questions at all, please email me at bill.perkins@jefferson.kyschools.us or call me at 485-8331.

Top Ten Reasons To Love Olmsted Academy North:

1. Our students and parents are the best!! The students enjoy being here everyday and want to do their very best. Our parents are helpful partners who have increased their membership in the PTSA and they are more active within our school. This is indicated in student/parent

- surveys, student smiles, and their improved attendance at school and events for families
2. Our staff is the best!! Certified and Classified!! We all work so very hard here teaching and supporting students everyday! This is evidenced by surveys from our students, comments of parents, higher attendance rates, and improved scores within content areas.
 3. Our implementation of CARE for Kids is working!!! We see the results in better discipline data and from student feedback
 4. Our building is second to no other school in the district! We have received 100% scores on district walkthroughs and perfect scores on visits from the Fire Marshall and other outside entities
 5. Our PTSA is growing! Three years ago, we had 10 members, and in 2007, there were 181. Last year, we had 190 members, and we're on the move in 2009 with 204 members, including a 100% staff membership.
 6. Our school is safe! We have a security staff that responds quickly and effectively to problems, there are always prepared and adults ready to address student needs and concerns.
 7. Our commitment to customer service shines! We put students and parents first, as shown in the incredibly low rate of complaints to central office and students/parents/visitors who comment on the friendliness of the building.
 8. Our Master Teacher staff is helping our teachers be their best! The Master Teachers are unequalled in their ability to help support instruction and students
 9. Our student council is proactive! They are effective and have been making decisions regarding the school, including the theme for CATS testing.
 10. Our Family and Youth Service Center that is the best in the commonwealth! Mr. Davidson's expertise allows the FYSC to support and brokers services for families of this community and runs programs that are unequalled not only in Jefferson County, but in the state as well.

Attendance:

It is vital that our students maintain good attendance. Please help us by encouraging your child to be at school each day. Feel free to call our

Counselor Ms. Shonte' Hardin or our Youth Service Center Coordinator Durk Davidson if you have questions or need help regarding your child's attendance. Additionally, if your child is going to be absent due to illness or emergency please call us at 485-8331 so that we can notify teachers. We appreciate your partnership with us on this important issue.

Parent Night Programs for 2008:

Our Title I Parent Night Programs will be continuing for the spring semester. All programs begin at 6:00 p.m., with the exceptions of Parent/Teacher Conference Day, the CHAMPS Luncheon, and the 8th Grade Awards Ceremony. Please mark these dates on your calendars and make plans to join us to participate in all of the exciting things happening at Olmsted North.

- Friday, January 16 CHAMPS Luncheon @ 11:30 am
- Thursday, January 29 Title I Social Studies in Literacy
Night/HB 168 General Parent Meeting
- Monday, February 16 Parent/Teacher Conference Day (3pm-6pm)
- Thursday, February 26 Title I Science Night
- Thursday, March 19 Spring Literacy Night
- Thursday, May 21 Spring Band/Orchestra Concert
- Thursday, May 28 8th grade Awards Ceremony at 9 am

Site Based Decision Making Council News:

Recently, we elected a new Site Based Decision Making Council (SBDM) for our school. The council will be made up of the principal, three teachers, and two parents and hopes to start its work in January 2009. Please note our new representatives:

- Patty Lord (Teacher)
- Vanessa Poteet (Teacher)
- Ron Cheeks (Teacher)
- Stephanie Cobble (Parent)
- Patsy Hughes (Parent)
- Bill Perkins (Principal)

If you have issues and would like to speak to one of your representatives, please call our school, and we will put you in touch with them or work to get them a message.

What Our Students Are Doing:

Our students are working very hard in the classroom instructionally, and they are building community through our CARE for Kids Program. Instructionally, our students are taking four 87 minutes classes a day with a rotating day for Science/Social Studies. This increases instructional time and allows students to go deeper into the curriculum to create a connection between the material and the world around them, resulting in a greater level of understanding.

In Math, our students are learning through an instructional curriculum called Connected Math II, which is designed to take students deeper into the material and exposes them to real world use of the material they are studying. Our Science classes use the GE Science Modules, which helps students understand the content better by experiencing hands on experiments and activities. Language Arts classes are focused around improving overall literary development through the use of reading programs and writing. Social Studies uses the HistoryAlive Program which is geared towards making history more meaningful and interesting to students through primary resources and fun activities. Lastly, our Related Arts classes have students taking a variety of courses in the areas of Music, Computer, Art, the Fine Arts, or Health/PE.

Our school is also committed to building positive relationships with students. This year we implemented a new way of thinking and relating to each other, embodied in a district program called CARE for Kids. Each morning students participate in the Circle of Power and Respect, where they gather in a circle and greet each other before sharing some aspect of their thoughts or experiences with the group. They then move on to complete a fun activity. We do this in all grades, and our students have been very receptive. It makes for an engaging way to start each day, but more importantly it builds a strong sense of community within our school. I believe that it has resulted in fewer referrals, decreased assignments to ISAP, and a greater connection with teachers and staff.

Student life outside of the classroom has improved dramatically in several areas. First, a student government has been created and includes elected officers from each team. Also, we have a Principal's Advisory Council which effectively helps make decisions for the school. Clubs and activities are still being offered to students after school, and this year we have several exciting new offerings, including hydroplaning, chess, quick recall, and engineering. Finally, our Athletic Program has gotten stronger under our new Athletic Director, Jeff Phelps. We will be adding two new sports for students this spring: baseball and soccer.

In closing, at Olmsted Academy North, we are working to educate the whole child and making huge strides toward our vision and mission, which remains Every Child Proficient and Educating Tomorrow's Leaders Today.

Report Card Dates and the Revised Calendar:

It is important to note that the Jefferson County School Board has now added January 5 and February 16 to the school calendar as instructional days. Students are expected to be in attendance on those dates. This is being done to make up days missed during the windstorm earlier in the year when school was cancelled for a week.

Parent conferences will still be held on February 16, but they will be scheduled between 3-6 pm. If those times are not convenient for you or if you have a concern you would like to address before that date, parent/teacher conferences are always available on request.

Please call our school for information, help, or questions regarding these changes or to set up a teacher conference.

Dates for Report Cards are listed below:

January 21 March 3 April 21 June 8(mailed home)

To see the full JCPS revised calendar, please go to the following link:
<http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Calendars/Calendar.html>

Website:

Our school has a new and exciting website that allows you to easily email staff, check out upcoming dates, and find out information about our school. It is at the following link:

<http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Schools/Middle/OlmstedNorth.html>

Closing:

I want to thank each of you for a wonderful first half of this school year, and I ask for your help in the second half of the year. I look forward to working with each of you and want you to know that you are always welcome to come by or call. If you are not already a member, we would love to have you involved in our parent programs and participation in the PTSA. Most importantly, we appreciate your work with your child.

I wish all of you the very best for 2009! Please feel free to call me at 485-8331 or email me at bill.perkins@jefferson.kyschools.us if you have any questions or concerns.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Equal Opportunity Policies

Equal Employment Opportunity

Employees/Applicants

The Jefferson County Public School District shall not discriminate in recruitment or employment on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, marital or parental status, national origin, race, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, religion, or political opinion or affiliation. The District shall promote equal opportunities through a vigorous affirmative action program as an integral part of personnel policy and practice in the employment, development, advancement, and treatment of employees of the Jefferson County Public Schools.

In the Event of Questions

Employees or applicants, report to immediate superior, appropriate personnel administrator, the Compliance and Investigations Office, or the appropriate enforcement agency if you believe you have experienced harassment/discrimination.

Equal Educational Opportunity

Students/Parents or Guardians

No student shall be denied equal educational opportunity for any reason by the Jefferson County Board of Education because of his or her age, color, disability, parental status, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, or veteran status.

Harassment/Discrimination of any type is not permitted. A student has the right to attend school free from harassment and should not be subjected to discrimination for any reason. Schools will strive to ensure that these rights are protected and that appropriate consequences are provided to offenders.

In the Event of Questions

Students and parents/guardians, report to principal, the Compliance and Investigations Office, or the appropriate government agency if you believe you have experienced harassment/discrimination.

Noncompliance with the above policy and procedures may result in disciplinary action.

Discrimination Grievance Procedure

The Jefferson County Public Schools Discrimination Grievance Procedure is available at local schools, on the Jefferson County Public Schools Web site at www.jcpsky.net, or in the Compliance and Investigations Office, C. B. Young Jr. Service Center, 3001 Crittenden Drive, Louisville, KY 40209. Contact Cheryl Walker, Compliance and Investigations director, at **485-3341**, or call or write one of the following enforcement agencies:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
600 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Place, Suite 268
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 582-6082
www.eeoc.gov

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights
Wanamaker Building, Suite 515
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 656-8541
www.ed.gov

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights
The Heyburn Building, Suite 700
332 West Broadway
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 595-4024
<http://kchr.ky.gov>

Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission
410 West Chestnut Street, Suite 300A
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 574-3631
www.louisvilleky.gov/HumanRelations



Bill Perkins
Principal