

August/September 2022

Welcome to the 2022 – 2023 Academic Year

We are extremely excited for the start of an academically rigorous, content-rich educational year at all of our campuses. We know that our school leaders, administration, teachers, facilities, students, parents, and the community-at-large are ready and excited for a more normal, mask-free, Covid-less year. We welcome the return to the love of learning and teaching.

Secondly, we are pleased to welcome to the Jefferson Academy Board of Directors four new members. During the June meeting Anil Mathai and Flavio Quintana were officially seated on the Board of Directors. The Board also unanimously voted to have Jerrilynn Lilyblade and Kirsten Mills fill the other two vacancies. As we move forward for the 2022 – 2023 academic year we approved the following roles for the seven Board members:

Agnessa Vartanova, Chair

Anil Mathai, Vice Chair

Tiffany Sorice, President

Michael Ennis, Vice President

Flavio Quintana, Treasurer

Jerrilynn Lilyblade, Secretary

Kirsten Mills, Assistant Secretary

The JA Board of Directors is pleased to announce that we are planning our monthly meetings both in-person and on Zoom. Everyone is welcome to attend via either modality. Time and location for in-person meetings will be provided in the monthly agenda. We will continue to offer Board meetings on Zoom based on the feedback we received to accommodate busy parents and staff members.

Enrollment & Staffing

Have you heard about the “Great Resignation”? Not here at Jefferson Academy and Summit Academy! We are privileged to be fully staffed and growing. Thanks to Tim Matlick, Executive Director, for the following information about staffing and student enrollment:

- Jag Care is fully staffed this year allowing them to serve up to 50 elementary students.
- JA Elementary Enrollment: Down from 770 to 740
- JA Secondary Enrollment: Up from 670 to 680
- Summit Westminster Enrollment: Up from 780 to 820
- Summit South Enrollment: Up from 180 to 245

We want to extend a warm welcome to our new staff members across all buildings

We are especially proud that we now employ five JA graduates: one at Summit Westminster, two at JA Elementary, and two at JA Secondary. Success at Jefferson Academy leads to success in life!

Principal/School Leaders Update

During the August BOD meeting, our school leaders shared good insights to share, but the two words we mostly commonly heard were Enthusiasm and Excitement! We hope that Covid is in the rear-view mirror, and we look forward to an exciting and productive academic year. Dr. O'Neill reports that JA Elementary students are ready to learn, and teachers are ready to teach. This echoes through all our campuses.

JA Committees

We need you! As a charter school, parent involvement and volunteering is one of the linchpins of our success. We always seek parents and community members to serve on Board committees and this year is no exception. We encourage you to take the time out of your busy schedules and engage in our community. You'll be surprised at how meaningful volunteering can be and chances are very good you will get to know some great people along the way. Click on the link to find out more about committees and other volunteer opportunities: <https://www.jajags.com/committees> . Additional volunteer opportunities are regularly included in communication from the school leaders, PTO and Boosters. Don't be shy. Sign up today!

Academic Rigor

Have your students come home and mentioned that there are changes at their school? Some of the changes might be very noticeable and others more subtle. Our mission at JA is to help your students attain their highest academic and character potential through an *academically rigorous*, content-rich educational program. Some changes this year are due to making sure JA provides an academically rigorous program. Here are the guiding principles of Academic Rigor:

- To foster a lifelong commitment to learning.
- To enhance a respect for diversity of thought and perspective.
- To build fundamental knowledge using the Core Knowledge curriculum.
- To develop high-performing leaders ready for post-secondary opportunities.
- To set high expectations that challenge students intellectually, academically, and personally.
- To create meaningful and personal connections to academic work.
- To hold staff, students, and parents accountable to JA's mission, vision, and core values.
- To uphold a learning community that values academic growth and embraces intellectual curiosity.

By following these guiding principles, Jefferson Academy and Summit Academy will create a learning environment that engenders academic achievement, growth in character, and the love of learning, resulting in responsible, productive citizens.