

Welcome to JH! We are your neighborhood school and your community, we are so glad you're here! The PTA has put together some helpful information for families new to the school.

Registration Information:

Kindergarten registration begins in April– please register early so the school can predict enrollment and the correct number of classrooms!

- 1) Complete the enrollment forms online (<https://www.acps.k12.va.us/register>)
- 2) You must also visit your school in person with your verification documents. This usually takes <15 minutes and can be scheduled by calling the school 703-706-4400.

JH Registrar: Ms. Washington miciah.washington-thompson@acps.k12.va.us

The Basics:

School starts at 8:00am. Doors open at 7:40 for breakfast. Kindergarten meets at the cafeteria right by the lobby (door by the garden boxes) to eat breakfast, and walk to the classroom together with their teacher.

Kiss and Ride (cars) – enter the parking lot right after the Durant Center and there is a drop off lane. Please don't park and get out if you're in the kiss and ride lane.

Parking – Park in the parking lot spaces or on Cameron St. or Princess St. if you want to walk your student to the door. Keep an eye out for bikes in the bike lane and please do not block Cameron St.

Dismissal- Kindergarten is dismissed at 2:30, the other grades at 2:35. Grade levels will group by walkers/kiss and ride/bus and teachers will escort the group. Your teacher will let you know what door to pick up walkers at- generally on the playground side.

Uniform- There is no required uniform.

Visitors – (e.g. picking up a student early) you must use the main doors, which are on the playground side. Press the intercom button to be let in, and proceed to the front office with your ID. You must call the office in advance if picking up between 1:45 and 2:30.

Bus Information:

ACPS Policy: If you are within the walk zone, you are ineligible for bus transportation. K-8 students who live 1 mile or less from their campus are within the walk zone. Exceptions are based on specific safety issues along the expected walk path. Decisions are made by the Transportation Office 703-461-4169

You will automatically be assigned a bus, if eligible, based on your home address in your registration paperwork. **You will receive an email in the days before school starts (maybe even the day before!) with your bus number, time, and stop location.** *Plan for buses to be off schedule the first week as adjustments are made.*

If you need transportation to another location (e.g. an after school program) you must use the Transportation Change form (<https://www.acps.k12.va.us/departments/facilities-operations/office-of-pupil-transportation-and-fleet-management/alternate-transportation-request>) to request the change (in 2025: form was posted July 14 and deadline was Aug 5)!

[GPS Parent Portal \(Edulog\)](#)- the app will show you the GPS location of the bus and send you a push notification when it is nearing your bus stop.

If you need help meeting other bus riders in your neighborhood, the PTA can help you connect with other families- email us or post in the Jefferson-Houston School Parents and Caregivers facebook group

After School Programs that JH families use:

- Campagna Kids (at school) -The Campagna Center runs programs at ACPS schools. They use a sliding fee scale based on income (ranges from \$40-\$450 monthly); closed on teacher workdays; runs after school until 6pm; Registration usually opens in June; licensed by the state of Virginia; follows standards developed by the National Afterschool Alliance; 1:12 adult-to-child ratio; serves dinner
- Charles Houston Rec Center (bus) Power On Out of School Time Program -Open on some teacher work days; runs after school until 6pm; Registration opens end of June; cost for 2025-2026 was \$892 (there are also reduced rates for families who qualify for federal assistance programs) for the entire school year; Not licensed but based on local standards approved by the City, generally with a higher number of children to adults than Campagna
- Boys and Girls Club (walk) Dunbar Alexandria-Olympic Club (401 N Payne St)
- YMCA (420 E Monroe Ave, bus) runs after school until 6:30pm
- Creative Play (100 E Windsor Ave, bus) runs after school until 6pm
- Yang's Taekwondo (1611 Commonwealth Ave) – pick up in their own van

***For bus transportation to an after school program, you must use submit an alternate transportation request. Approval is not guaranteed, decisions are made by the Transportation Office • [ACPS Bus Change Info](#)– form usually available mid-July

2026-2027 School Calendar

2026-27 Traditional Academic Calendar for Families

2026-27 Traditional Academic Calendar for Families

KEY DATES

AUGUST 2026

- 26 First Day of School
- 26 First Day of Preschool - ACPE Early Childhood Center and Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) Classes

SEPTEMBER 2026

- 4 Labor Day - No School for Students
- 7 Labor Day - No School for Students
- 21 Teacher Work Day - No School for Students

OCTOBER 2026

- 1 Two-Hour Early Dismissal for Students - Elementary, Middle and High School Conferences
- 2 Elementary, Middle and High School Conferences - No School for Students
- 12 Indigenous Peoples Day (Professional Learning Day - No School for Students)
- 30 End of Quarter

NOVEMBER 2026

- 2 Teacher Work Day - No School for Students
- 3 Election Day (Professional Learning Day - No School for Students)
- 11 Veterans Day - No School for Students
- 23-27 Fall Break (Thanksgiving - No School for Students)

DECEMBER 2026

- 15-16 Winter Break (Includes Christmas Day) - No School for Students

JANUARY 2027

- 1 Winter Break (Includes New Year's Day) - No School for Students
- 18 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School for Students
- 22 End of Quarter
- 25 Teacher Work Day - No School for Students

FEBRUARY 2027

- 13 Presidents Day - No School for Students
- 25 Two-Hour Early Dismissal for Students - Elementary, Middle and High School Conferences
- 26 Elementary, Middle and High School Conferences - No School for Students

MARCH 2027

- 10 End of Year - No School for Students
- 22-28 Spring Break - No School for Students

APRIL 2027

- 9 End of Quarter
- 12 Teacher Work Day - No School for Students

MAY 2027

- 17 End of Month - No School for Students
- 31 Memorial Day - No School for Students

JUNE 2027

- 4-17 Two-Hour Early Dismissal for High School Students - Final Exam
- 15-17 Two-Hour Early Dismissal for Students - Afternoon Teacher Work Day
- 17 End of Quarter/Last Day of School for Students

CULTURAL OBSERVANCE DAYS

Observance days are regular school days unless otherwise noted under Key Dates.

These days should not have assessments, sporting events and other school sponsored special activities. Any missed assignments due to student absence on these days can be made up without penalty.

*Activities are evening-only observance

2026

- September 11 - 9/11 Remembrance
- September 11 - Eidul Fitr
- September 13 - Rosh Hashanah (begin)
- September 13 - Rosh Hashanah (end)
- September 20 - Yom Kippur (begin)
- September 20 - Yom Kippur (end)
- November 1 - Día de los Muertos
- November 4 - Diwali
- December 4 - First Night of Chanukah
- December 4 - Birth Day

2027

- January 6 - Three Kings Day
- January 6 - Epiphany
- January 7 - Orthodox Christmas
- January 19 - Orthodox Epiphany
- February 4 - Lunar New Year
- February 7 - Ramadan (begin)
- February 8 - First Full Day of Ramadan
- March 9 - End of Ramadan
- March 20 - Renewal Persian New Year
- April 13 - Thursday New Year
- April 21 - First Evening of Passover
- April 22 - Second Evening of Passover
- April 28 - Last Day of Passover
- April 28 - Orthodox Good Friday
- May 16 - End of Ramadan

CALENDAR KEY

- ★ First/Last Day of School
- Student Days
- All Students
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- All Students
- High School

TWO-HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL

- All Students
- High School

Approved December 16, 2025. Holidays that fall outside of the academic year are not included under Key Dates.

Example Daily Schedule (2nd grader)

- 8:00-8:10 Morning Meeting/SEAL (social emotional learning)
- 8:10-9:25 Math
- 9:25-10:05 Intervention/Enrichment
- 10:10-10:55 Encore (Mon Art, Tues P.E., Wed Library, Thurs P.E., Friday Music)
- 10:55-11:25 Recess
- 11:55-12:30 Core Reading
- 12:30-12:50 Writing
- 12:50-1:35 HD Word (language arts)
- 1:35-2:30 Science/Social Studies
- 2:30 Pack up and dismissal

Lunch Information

Lunch is 30 minutes for all grades. There are small cafeterias on each floor, each grade level eats together (e.g. Kindergarteners are eating lunch only with other kindergarteners). Kindergarten also has a snack time.

Community Eligibility Provision- free breakfast and lunch for all students 25-26 school year, decided yearly

Menu – available on the School Café app and ACPS sends out a monthly menu in a newsletter. After lunch is served, students can buy ice cream or chips, items around \$1. If you send money for their account to buy extra items, your child will get a PIN number. There are no fridges or microwaves available for student use.

Example Lunch Menu:

April Menu

LUNCH

M	TU	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
	SPRING BREAK			
6	7	Brunch 8	9	10
NO SCHOOL	Taco Bar (Beef or Meatless Crumble) Bean & Cheese Pupusa	French Toast Bake with Chicken or Veggie Sausage	Popcorn Chicken or Chick'n Nuggets with Loaded Potatoes Pepperjack Pretzel Bites & Tomato Soup	Pizza Friday! Tuna Salad on a Croissant
13	14	Brunch 15	16	17
Cheeseburger or Veggie Burger with Curly Fries Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup	Nacho Bar (Beef or Meatless Crumbles) Chicken or Cheese Tamale with Churro	French Toast Sticks with Scrambled Eggs & Hashbrowns	BBQ Chicken or BBQ Veggie Chick'n Sandwich Fish Nuggets with Parker House Roll	Pizza Friday! Baja Fish Tacos
20	21	Brunch 22	23	24
Homestyle Chicken or Veggie Chick'n Patty with Fries Beef Pretzel Dog with Cheese Dip & Fries	Taco/Chipotle Bar (Chicken or Mexican Veggie Crumbles) Chicken & Cheese Enchiladas	Baked French Toast with Cinnamon Apples & Chicken Sausage or Veggie Sausage	Chicken Teriyaki Drumstick or Veggie Nuggets & Lo Mein Bean & Cheese Empanada with Plantains	Pizza Friday! Baja Fish Sandwich
27	28	Brunch 29	30	
Beef Hot Dog or Veggie Burger Cheesy Stromboli with Marinara	Walking Taco Bar (Beef or Three Bean Chili) Chicken Parm or Veggie Chick'n Parm Sandwich	Hot Honey Chicken (or Veggie Chick'n) & Waffles with Sweet Potato Hash	Crispy Fish Nuggets with Curly Fries BBQ Glazed Chicken Drumstick (or Buffalo Chick'n Nuggets) with Mashed Potatoes & Garlic Knot	

Additional Daily Offerings:
PB & J Uncrustable/WOW Butter Sandwich with String Cheese & Pretzels
Assorted Milks

Vegetarian Options

@ACPSNutrition

ACPS
School Nutrition Services

School Supplies

- List will be posted here:
- The school social worker has many donated backpacks and supplies
Jeremy.patterson@acps.k12.va.us
- Send a change of clothes if your child might need it. Send layers- the air conditioning can be cold, the heat can be hot!
- Medications- speak with Nurse Pastore lisa.pastore@acps.k12.va.us
- Back to School Night- a few weeks after school starts; visit the classroom, meet the teacher, find out the daily schedule, meet other parents.
- You will be mailed your child's teacher assignment in the week before school begins.

Power School and Parent Square Information

You will receive a letter in the mail in September from ACPS with an 'Access ID' and 'Access Password'. **Power school** is used to fill out Back to School forms each year, view absences and tardies. Make sure your contact info (e.g. email) is correct and matches your registration information!! **Power school** info is used to configure your **Parent Square**.

Parent Square is how the school sends regular communication to you (school newsletter, PTA updates and events, messages to and from your teacher). There is an app, or you can view on a browser, and you will receive emails. Use this app! (& configure your notifications)

For major announcements like early dismissal for weather or school closure-you will receive a text from ACPS

Technology at School (more info [here](#))

Kindergarteners use Chrome tablets, other grades use Chromebooks

Class Dojo –some teachers use to reward points as part of the school's PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program.

Educational apps used at school (examples)- Reading eggs, Imagine Math, Lexia, Epic
Cell phones and smart devices must be silenced or turned off and stored in a secure location from "bell to bell".

Join the PTA!

<https://www.jeffersonhoustonpta.com/> Contact: pta.jeffersonhouston@gmail.com
[Join here](#) (\$10)! What we do:

- Advocate for our families, teachers, and school
- Organize after-school elementary clubs
- Fundraise for field trips, teacher appreciation, classroom grants, and music programs
- Community-building events like the Fall Festival, Election Day Bake Sale, and Pancake Breakfast