

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 michiah.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

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 NO SCHOOL	7 Taco Bar (Beef or Meatless Crumble) Bean & Cheese Pupusa	<i>Brunch</i> 8 French Toast Bake with Chicken or Veggie Sausage	9 Popcorn Chicken or Chick'n Nuggets with Loaded Potatoes Pepperjack Pretzel Bites & Tomato Soup	10 Pizza Friday! Tuna Salad on a Croissant
13 Cheeseburger or Veggie Burger with Curly Fries Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup	14 Nacho Bar (Beef or Meatless Crumbles) Chicken or Cheese Tamale with Churro	<i>Brunch</i> 15 French Toast Sticks with Scrambled Eggs & Hashbrowns	16 BBQ Chicken or BBQ Veggie Chick'n Sandwich Fish Nuggets with Parker House Roll	17 Pizza Friday! Baja Fish Tacos
20 Homestyle Chicken or Veggie Chick'n Patty with Fries Beef Pretzel Dog with Cheese Dip & Fries	21 Taco/Chipotle Bar (Chicken or Mexican Veggie Crumbles) Chicken & Cheese Enchiladas	<i>Brunch</i> 22 Baked French Toast with Cinnamon Apples & Chicken Sausage or Veggie Sausage	23 Chicken Teriyaki Drumstick or Veggie Nuggets & Lo Mein Bean & Cheese Empanada with Plantains	24 Pizza Friday! Baja Fish Sandwich
27 Beef Hot Dog or Veggie Burger Cheesy Stromboli with Marinara	28 Walking Taco Bar (Beef or Three Bean Chili) Chicken Parm or Veggie Chick'n Parm Sandwich	<i>Brunch</i> 29 Hot Honey Chicken (or Veggie Chick'n) & Waffles with Sweet Potato Hash	30 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: <https://jh.acps.k12.va.us/families/school-supplies>
- 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