

Welcome to JH!

Information for new families

Registration

We are your neighborhood school and your community, we are so glad you're here!

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 ([link here](#))
- 2) **You must also visit your school in person** with your [verification documents](#). This usually takes <15 minutes. **Schedule this visit** with the registrar. Call the school to schedule 703-706-4400.

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

The Basics

- What time does school start? 7:50am
Doors open at 7:35am for breakfast.
Students counted tardy after 8:00.
- Kiss and Ride (cars)- enter the parking lot and there is a drop off lane. Please don't park and get out if you're in the kiss and ride lane.
- Park on Cameron St./Princess St./in the parking lot if you want to walk your kid up to the door. Keep an eye out for bikes in the bike lane and please do not block Cameron St!
- What time is dismissal? 2:35pm (Kindergarten dismisses at 2:30pm)
 - 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) 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

- 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 [this form](#) to request the change (in 2024: form was posted July 22 and deadline was Aug 4)! [ACPS Bus Change Info](#)**
- [GPS Parent Portal](#)- 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](#)

Step Up to Kindergarten/Orientation

- Step Up to Kindergarten is:
 - the Friday before school starts (was Aug 16, 2024)
 - half day (for example 8-12) with their classroom teachers
 - drop-off (parents don't stay)
 - practice bus routes
 - practice going through lunch line
- Orientation/Open House (all grades):
 - Usually the Friday before school starts, after step up to K ends
 - Find out your child's classroom assignment (assignments are emailed the week before school starts)
 - Visit the classroom and meet your child's teacher, bring in school supplies if you want
- First days of school
 - Kindergarten meets in the first floor cafeteria which is just inside the door, and walk to the classroom together with their teachers
 - Make sure you clearly communicate your child's afternoon transportation (parent pick-up as walker, kiss and ride, or bus #) to the teacher by the end of the first day of school!
 - Make sure your student knows where they are going in the afternoon

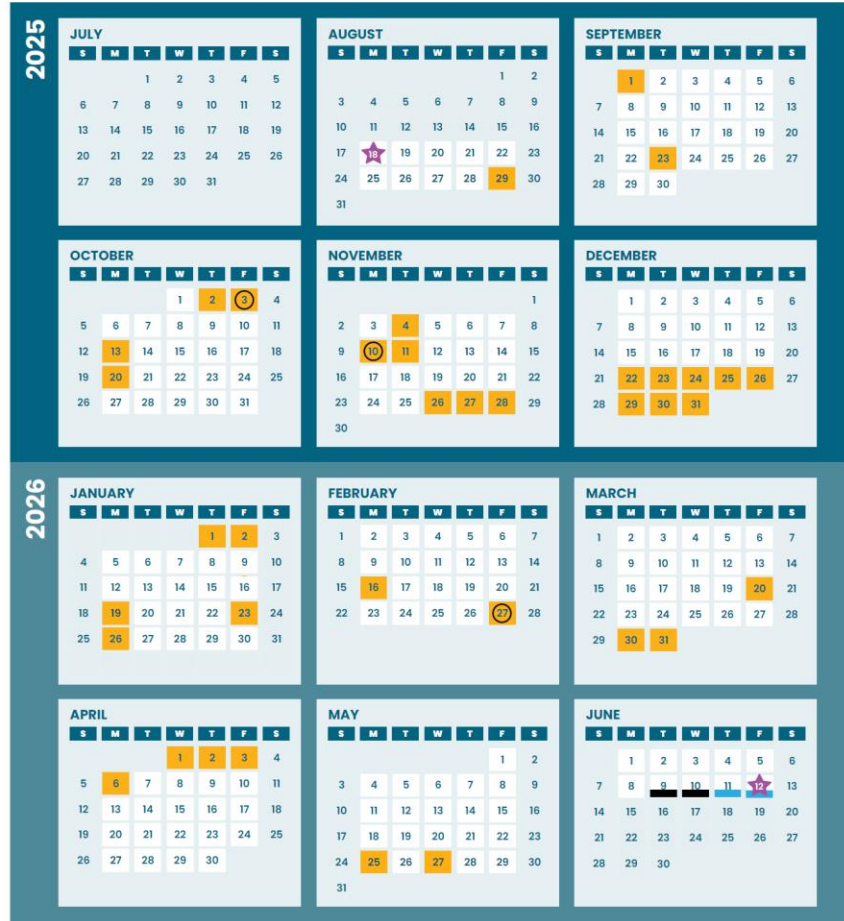
After School Programs (also plan care for days off, winter and spring breaks!)

- Campagna Kids (at school) [The Campagna Center](#) runs programs at ACPS schools
 - 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 2024-2025 is \$792 (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

JH 2025-26 Calendar

2025-26

Traditional Academic Calendar for Families



CALENDAR KEY

- ★ First/Last Day of School
- Student Days

NO SCHOOL

- All Students
- Parent-Teacher Conferences

TWO-HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL

- All Students
- High School

2025-26

Traditional Academic Calendar for Families



KEY DATES

AUGUST 2025	
15	Step Up to Kindergarten
18	First Day of School
20	First Day of Preschool – ACPs Early Childhood Center and Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) Classes
29	Labor Day – No School for Students
SEPTEMBER 2025	
1	Labor Day – No School for Students
23	Rosh Hashana – No School for Students
OCTOBER 2025	
2	Yom Kippur – No School for Students
3	Elementary, Middle and High School Conferences – No School for Students
13	Indigenous Peoples Day/ Professional Learning Day – No School for Students
20	Diwali – No School for Students
31	End of Quarter
NOVEMBER 2025	
4	Election Day / Teacher Work Day – No School for Students
10	Elementary, Middle and High School Conferences – No School for Students
11	Veterans Day – No School for Students
26-28	Fall Break/Thanksgiving – No School for Students
DECEMBER 2025	
22-31	Winter Break (includes Christmas Day) – No School for Students
JANUARY 2026	
1-2	Winter Break (includes New Year's Day) – No School for Students
19	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day / Inauguration Day – No School for Students
22	End of Quarter
23	Professional Learning Day – No School for Students
26	Teacher Work Day – No School for Students
FEBRUARY 2026	
16	Presidents Day – No School for Students
27	Elementary, Middle and High School Conferences – No School for Students
MARCH 2026	
20	Eid al-Fitr – No School for Students
27	End of Quarter
30-31	Spring Break – No School for Students
APRIL 2026	
1-3	Spring Break – No School for Students
6	Teacher Work Day – No School for Students
MAY 2026	
25	Memorial Day – No School for Students
27	Eid al-Adha – No School for Students
JUNE 2026	
9-10	Two-Hour Early Dismissal for High School Students
11-12	Two-Hour Early Dismissal for Students – Afternoon Teacher Work Day
12	End of Quarter/Last Day of School for Students

CULTURAL OBSERVANCE DAYS

On weekdays, these 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 absences on these days can be made up without penalty.

* denotes an evening-only observance

2025

- **September 11** – Enkutatash Ethiopian New Year
- **September 22** – Rosh Hashana begins*
- **September 24** – Rosh Hashana ends
- **October 1** – Yom Kippur begins*
- **November 1** – All Saints Day
- **November 1** – Dia de los Muertos
- **December 8** – Bodhi Day
- **December 14** – First Night of Chanukah*

2026

- **January 6** – Three Kings Day
- **January 6** – Epiphany
- **January 7** – Orthodox Christmas
- **January 19** – Orthodox Epiphany
- **February 17** – Lunar New Year
- **February 17** – Ramadan begins*
- **February 18** – First Full Day of Ramadan
- **March 19** – Eid al-Fitr begins*
- **March 21** – Nowruz Persian New Year
- **April 1** – First Evening of Passover*
- **April 2** – Second Evening of Passover*
- **April 2** – Theravada New Year
- **April 9** – Last Day of Passover
- **April 10** – Orthodox Good Friday
- **May 26** – Eid al-Adha begins*

Approved December 14, 2023. Holidays that fall outside of the academic year are not included under Key Dates.

Example Daily Schedule (2nd grader)

7:50-8:10 Morning Meeting/SEAL (social emotional learning)

8:10-9:25 Math

9:25-10:05 Intervention/Enrichment

10:10-10:55 Encore*

10:55-11:25 Recess

11:25-11:55 Lunch

11:55-12:30 Core Reading

12:30-12:50 Writing

12:50-1:45 HD Word (Language Arts)

1:45-2:30 Science/Social Studies

2:30 Pack-Up & Dismissal

*Encore Schedule:

Monday- Art

Tuesday- PE

Wednesday- Library

Thursday- PE

Friday- Music (band/orchestra 4th & 5th)

*Kindergarten also has a snack time. You can send a snack or the school will provide one.

Lunch (30 min)

- There are small cafeterias on each floor, each grade level eats together (e.g. Kindergarteners are eating lunch only with other kindergarteners)
- Community Eligibility Provision – (free breakfast and lunch for all 24-25 school year, decided yearly)
- Menu- available on the School Café app ([info on ACPS website](#))
 - Don't make selections or add money, only use to view menu
- 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
- No fridges or microwaves available for student use
- Middle school- Please don't order delivery (e.g. doordash, ubereats)

Example Lunch Menu (*PB&J is actually sunbutter)

Elementary Lunch					
Week 2					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
K-8	Cheeseburger on a Bun or Black Bean Burger	Beef or Mexican Crumble Nachos w/ Taco Fixins' (LR100140)	Brunch for Lunch: French Toast Breakfast Panini (LR101908) w/ Hash Browns	Homemade Bean & Cheese Empanada (LR101779) w/ Rice	Cheese (LR101001), Pepperoni [^] (LR101006), or Manager's Choice Pizza
	Spaghetti & Homemade Meatsauce or Meatless Crumble Sauce	Three Bean Chili Topped Tots (LR101224) w/ Cinnamon Roll (LR101051)		Warm Turkey & Cheese on Croissant (LR100509) w/ Baked Chips	Tuna Melt on Croissant (LR101921) w/ Chips
Bento Box	PB & J Uncrustable (LR100932, 840), String Cheese (LR100224, 975), & Pretzels (LR100553)				
	Yogurt & String Cheese w/ Muffin, Grahams	Pizza Lunch Kit (LR100745): WG Mini Flatbreads (2) w/ Shredded Mozzarella (2 oz), & Marinara	Yogurt & String Cheese w/ Assorted Cereal	Homemade Hummus Cheese Wrap (LR101027) <i>updated recipe</i>	Yogurt & String Cheese w/ Muffin, Grahams
6-8 ONLY	Chicken or Kickin' Nuggets Biscuit Mash Bowl	Titan Nacho Grande w/ Beef, Three Bean Chili, or Mexican Crumble (LR100894/016)	Peruvian Chicken (LR101791) w/ Black Beans & Rice/Quinoa Blend & Aji Verde (LR101284)	Falafel Pita w/ Tzatziki Sauce (LR101910, LR101577)	Buffalo Chicken Pizza
Greens More Bar (GMB)	Savory Loops	Taco Fixins'	Hash Browns	Roasted Plantains [^] (LR100081)	Fresh Grape Tomatoes
	Salad/Lettuce Mix (LR100648, 636)				
	Fresh Carrots (LR100821)	Chili Spiced Sweet Potatoes	Fresh Seasonal Vegetable*	Cucumber Tomato Salad (LR100748)	Marinated Mushrooms (LR101915)
	Green Bean Salad [^] (LR100901)	Cauliflower Florettes	Marinated Chickpeas [^] (LR100900)	Seasoned Pinto Beans [^] (LR101359)	Fresh Cucumber Coins (LR100235)
	Chilled Corn (LR100902)	Tasty Tree Tops (LR100446)	Fresh Tomatoes (LR100738, 647, 818)	Fresh Seasonal Vegetable*	Fresh Carrots (LR100821)
	Fresh Cucumber Coins (LR100235)	Vegetarian Refried Beans	Fresh Cucumber Coins (LR100235)	Chilled Power Peas (LR100907)	Tasty Tree Tops (LR100446) / Fresh Cauliflower (LR100253)
	Fresh Orange Wedges (LR100086)	Fresh Seasonal Vegetable*	Chilled Sliced Peaches (LR100050)	Fresh Sliced Pear (LR100084)	Fresh Seasonal Fruit*
	Chilled Pineapple Chunks (LR100051)	Frozen Fruit Cup (LR100490, 575, 713, 869)	Fresh Apple Slices (LR100820)	Fresh Seasonal Fruit*	Clementines

Assorted Milk Offered Daily

KEY: [^]Speed Scratch Recipe
*Manual Menu Item Add

School Supplies

- [Link to supply list](#) (updated over the summer)
- Bring them at orientation or send them with your child the first day
- The school social worker has many donated backpacks and school 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

Power School and Parent Square

- You will receive a letter in the mail in September from ACPS with an 'Access ID' and 'Access Password'
- [Power school](#) – 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.

Power School – available after school starts

- Link to Canvas
- Grades and Attendance ←
- Student Information
- View Contact Information
- Attendance History
- Teacher Comments
- Forms
- School Bulletin
- Class Registration
- Balance
- MySchoolBucks
- My Schedule
- School Information
- Account Preferences
- Back to School Forms ←

District Code
LZLW

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play

Grades and Attendance

Attendance By Class

Exp	Last Week					This Week					Course	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	X1	Y1	Absences	Tardies
	M	T	W	H	F	M	T	W	H	F									
01(A-B)											Homeroom, GR 2 Email Murray, Curtis - Rm: 227	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	0
02(A-B)											LA Reading, GR 2 Email Murray, Curtis - Rm: 227	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	0
03(A-B)											LA Writing, GR 2 Email Murray, Curtis - Rm: 227	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	0
04(A-B)											Math, GR 2 Email Murray, Curtis - Rm: 227	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	0
05(A-B)											Social Studies, GR 2 Email Murray, Curtis - Rm: 227	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	0
06(A-B)											Science, GR 2 Email Murray, Curtis - Rm: 227	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	0
07(A-B)											Art, GR 2 Email Haney, Caitlin M - Rm: 213	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	0
08(A-B)											Physical Education, GR 2 Email Rotruck, Alex - Rm: 153	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	0
09(A-B)											General Music, GR 2 Email Hancock-Siggers, Bianca - Rm: 126	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	0
Attendance Totals																	0	0	

[Show dropped classes also](#)

Attendance By Day

Last Week					This Week					Absences		Tardies	
M	T	W	H	F	M	T	W	H	F	Q3	YTD	Q3	YTD
										0	1	0	1
Attendance Totals										0	1	0	1

Legend

Attendance Codes: Blank=Present | K=Present - Virtual | E=Appealed | X=Default Enter/Left Code | D=Document | L=Excused Tardy | F=Family | H=Homebound | I=Illness | P=In-School Susp | N=No Show | R=Religion | V=School Activity | S=Suspended | T=Tardy | C=Truant | G=Shelter Care | U=Unexcused | A=Unverified | W=Weather

Technology

- Kindergarteners use Chrome tablets, other grades use Chromebooks
- Clever– portal to access learning apps
- Canvas – course assignments and resources (older grades)
- Securly- caregivers can review your student’s internet searches and activities
- Class Dojo –used to reward points as part of the school’s PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program. Teachers may also use for messaging or sending classroom photos to families.
- Educational apps used at school:
 - Reading Eggs, Epic, Dreambox, Lexia, IXL (examples)

Attendance Matters!

Absenteeism affects our school accreditation.

Please plan family vacations on school breaks!

Chronic Absences

Missing 10 days or more

Excessive absences will impact learning even if your child is on grade level

Warning Signs

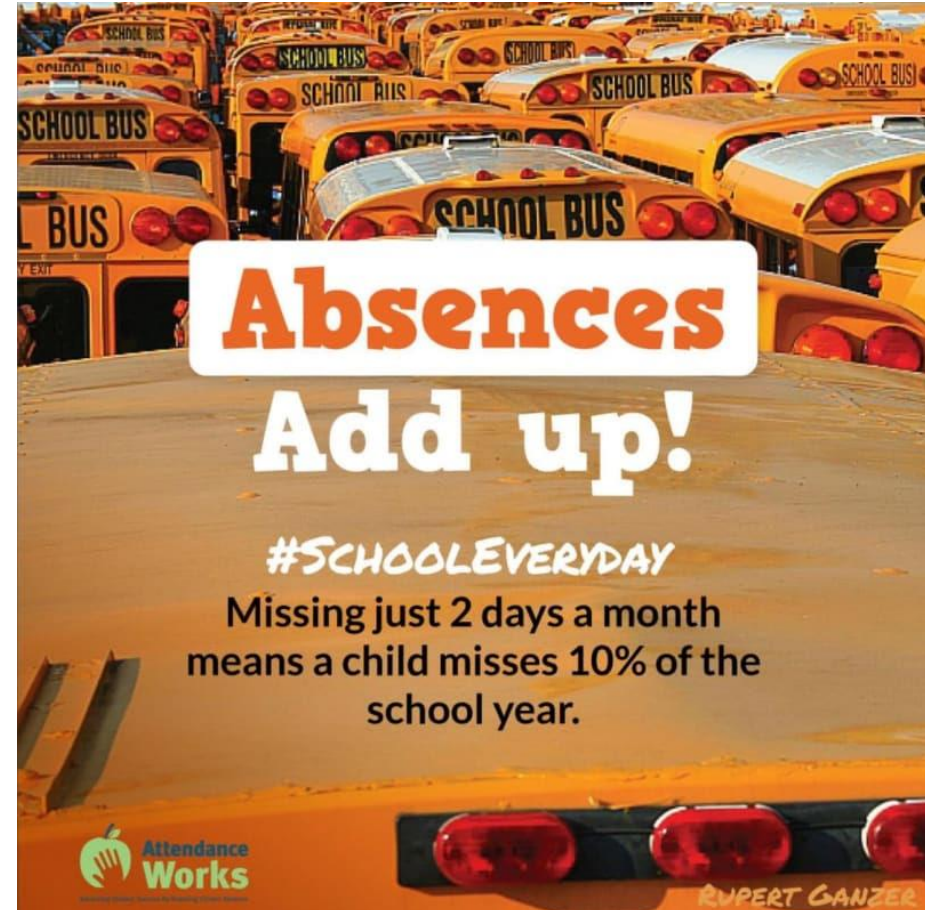
Missing 9-5 days

Absences are a problem even when they are excused

Satisfactory

4 days or less

Students can get behind by just a day or two a month



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 Fall Festival, Election Day bake sale, and Pancake Breakfast