



PORT WASHINGTON-SAUKVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

We educate all children to reach their greatest potential.

THOMAS JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

1403 North Holden Street
Port Washington, WI 53074

Tel. (262) 268-6100

Fax (262) 268-6120

Michael R. Weber, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

100 West Monroe Street
Port Washington, WI 53074

Website: www.pwssd.k12.wi.us

February 19, 2021

Hello TJ Parents and Students,

It seems as though we have come out of our recent cold snap. Funny how 18 degrees can feel like a heatwave! We learned this: 8 days in a row of indoor recess is not good for anyone at Camp TJ! Students and staff alike were very glad to be able to get outside without risking hypothermia!

We seem to be settling into a groove here at TJ. Students and staff have acclimated to being back five days a week, and overall we are doing well.

We met as a team and realized we have too many different schedules. We had an inclement weather schedule, and another schedule for the additional early release Wednesdays (12:38 dismissal), and yet another for the previously scheduled early release days (11:05 dismissal). This seems unnecessarily complicated and confusing. To streamline this we are going to have the same schedule for additional early release Wednesdays and inclement weather days. Here is that revised schedule, and the schedule for the previously scheduled early release days:

[Inclement Weather & Additional Wednesday Early Release Schedule](#)

March 17, April 14, April 28, May 5, May 19 (TJMS dismissal 12:38)

[Previously Scheduled Early Release Dates and Times:](#)

March 26 and June 4 (TJMS dismissal 11:05)

We will post this on our website and Facebook page. I want to thank you all for your patience and flexibility on our most recent snow day! I think the new schedule should eliminate any confusion on the additional early release Wednesdays and any inclement weather days!

Some Random Thoughts:

- We have received a few questions about lockers and backpacks. Because of our need to socially distance as much as possible, we have allowed students to keep their backpacks with them. That way they don't have to go to their lockers. The TJ lockers are extremely narrow and students end up way too close together if they are all going to their lockers!
 - Students are able to use their locker for their jackets, boots, etc.
 - One problem students are experiencing is the backpack getting too heavy! If your child works with his or her teacher, together they will be able to figure out ways to lighten that load!
- We have seen a recent uptick in the need to quarantine. Please reinforce the need to wear a mask over the nose and mouth, wash hands, and socially distance as much as possible.
- We are really proud of our students' behavior during the recent cold snap! They handled it! Indoor recess takes a real team effort - thanks to our lunch ladies, custodians, teachers, and students for making it work!
- Drop off and pick up seems to have improved since we had some snow removed. Please know that we are looking at some changes for next year that may improve the traffic flow.
- We are grateful to be back! It makes things seem a little closer to normal and hopefully, as we march towards Spring - things will seem ever more hopeful! We need a big breeze of warm positivity!

Thank you so much,

Steve Sukawaty

Principal

Thomas Jefferson Middle School

Steve Sukawaty
Principal

John Bunyan
Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

Jodi Swagel
Assistant Principal