

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

School Description and Mission Statement (School Year 2016-2017)

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School, in collaboration with students, families and the community promotes a safe learning environment and prepares ethically responsible student to be college and career ready. Our students demonstrate creativity and critical thinking through effective collaboration and communication in a diverse, ever-changing world.

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School is a neighborhood school located in the business section of southwest Glendale. Built in the 1950's the school was modernized in 2004. Housed on 4.2 acres of land, the campus is comprised of a main office building and six surrounding buildings. The school is currently undergoing construction which will provide a two-story building with 12 classrooms that will replace the outdated portables. The project is expected to be completed by September of 2017.

Jefferson services approximately 655 students in grades K-6 and also houses a state preschool on its campus. The families in the community are culturally and linguistically diverse with English, Armenian, Spanish, and Hindi being some of the languages represented.

The academic achievement has been recognized by being the recipient of the Title I Academic Achievement Award, California Distinguished School Award, Blue Ribbon nominee, Reading First Academic Achievement Index in the State of California, California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll and the school's FLAG program has been recognized by the California Association of Bilingual Educators. This year, the school met the eligibility requirements and applied for the California State Gold Ribbon Award.

Jefferson is home to the first Armenian Language Immersion Program, which is part of the District's Foreign Language Acquisition of Glendale (FLAG) that includes a total of seven languages. Selection and placement in the FLAG program is through a district-wide lottery following a parent application process. In 2016-2017, approximately 50% of the students are enrolled in the FLAG program at Jefferson.

The Dual Immersion model of the program began in 2010-11 with the goal of developing bilingualism and biliteracy through a 50/50 program model. Instruction in all core academics is provided in Armenian for 50% of the day and in English for the other 50%.

Opportunities for Parental Involvement (School Year 2016-2017)

Parents are the key to our success, and Jefferson Elementary offers a number of opportunities for parent involvement throughout the year. Parent volunteers have a regular presence at the school, whether they are helping in the classroom, on the playground or the lunch benches, and with various school events.

Elected parents actively serve on School Site Council/English Learner Advisory Committee, contributing to the review and development of the school plan. Various parent education sessions in the form of Family Forums are offered to families on a monthly basis.

Jefferson's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) plays an important role in bringing families together through events and activities that support our students' academic and personal growth. Through their support our students participate in the annual Red Ribbon Week, Walktober, and the Reflections Art Contest. The annual PTA Fall Festival is quite the popular event that has now become a tradition for bringing together current and former Jefferson families. Funds raised through the PTA bring learning opportunities for students through school assemblies, recognitions, and activities.

The Jefferson Elementary Foundation promotes collaboration between the school, families and the community in support of fundraising for schoolwide projects, new programs, and necessary resources that benefit the entire school.

Back to School Night and Open House provide parents with the opportunity to see classrooms and learn about the expectations set for each grade level. Additionally, throughout the year teachers hold parent conferences to support student’s continuous growth.

School Safety Plan (School Year 2016-2017)

Students’ physical and personal safety is top priority at Jefferson. The school campus undergoes a monthly inspection by the head custodian who ensures that all areas of the school meet safety guidelines. Various safety measures are in place at Jefferson, including the supervision of students before, during and after school, designated drop-off and pick-up lane in front of school, crossing guards at the busy intersections near the school, and a single point of entry and exit for the school. The School Safety Plan is reviewed and updated annually and includes the guidelines and procedures for emergencies, including, but not limited to, earthquakes, fires, and intruders. An automated phone system is used to communicate with all families during emergencies and as needed. The school is currently undergoing additional safety upgrades as part of Measure S. These, in addition to our collaboration with the local emergency personnel, allow us to offer a secure learning environment for all students. Staff and administration work closely to also ensure each student’s personal, social and emotional safety, as addressed through the schoolwide discipline policy and the conflict mediation process.

School Facility Conditions and Planned Improvements (School Year 2016-2017)

Although established in the early 1920’s, the main buildings on campus were built in 1930. In 2004 the campus underwent a major renovation, where the entire main office building was remodeled. This year, the front office will be upgraded to meet the necessary safety measures. The Jefferson custodial staff with additional support from the district crew cleans and maintains the facility to ensure that it always meets the highest standards. The campus houses eleven modular (portable classrooms) which have been here since 1998. These provide the much needed additional classroom space. The auditorium is used regularly for assemblies and meetings, and serves as a cafeteria on inclement weather days. The grounds also include a school library.

Types of Services Funded (Fiscal Year 2016-2017)

A combination of state and federal funding is used to support our instructional programs. All Glendale schools benefit from the support of the Glendale Educational Foundation, which provides schools with programs in visual and performing arts, science and technology, and health and fitness.

Core Curriculum Area	Textbooks and instructional materials/year of adoption	From most recent adoption?	Percent students lacking own assigned copy
Reading/Language Arts	Houghton Mifflin – Reading – California/2012 McDougal Littell – The Language of Literature/2003 National Geographic Inside (6 th grade ELD)/2010	Yes	0%

Mathematics	GUSD Open Source Curriculum, 2015	Yes	0%
Science	MacMillan McGraw-Hill – California Science/2007 Prentice Hall – California Earth Science/2007	Yes	0%
History-Social Science	Harcourt – Reflections: California Series/2006 McMillan McGraw-Hill – California Vistas/2006 McDougal Littell – World History: Ancient Civilizations/2006	Yes	0%