



## A. J. ELEMENTARY

Arthur Jacobsen Elementary  
29205 132nd Avenue Southeast  
Auburn, WA 98092  
253-931-4960  
Fax: 253-931-4954

Eric S. Daniel, Principal  
Jim House, Assistant Principal

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Dear Arthur Jacobsen Elementary Families,

I want to welcome you and your family to Arthur Jacobsen Elementary School, better known as "AJ," Home of the Thunderbirds! We return to the building with a new and refined model of Distance Learning designed for the success of your child. We are excited to build connections with you to make this year better than ever before. We know the importance of safety during this pandemic and will follow the recommended precautions from the State, Public Health Department and Auburn School District.

The Auburn School District conducted Town Hall Virtual Meetings last week that gave us guidance into moving into the new school year. If you didn't happen to connect, please click this link for that information. [Family Town Hall Meeting](#). We will follow the daily schedule provided by the district which is 8:40 AM to 3:10 PM. I do want to emphasize that students will not be online during the entire time or school day. They will check in at their morning meeting with their teacher, the beginning of Math, ELA (Reading, Writing, Listening, SCI/SS integrated), specialist time (a period of PE, Music, Library, Computer Science and Engineering, or Technology) and finally the closing class meeting time. Some students may have an intervention time as well. Teachers will be more connected to your child throughout the day to achieve the required grade-level learning standards.

Distance learning is not new to us following the continuous learning plan from the spring. Based on new requirements from the state our staff will hone in on the connection to students and families, further refining what we do. This includes daily attendance and participation, student engagement, new distance teaching and learning methods, the return of assessments, grading and new distance learning training for our staff.

I always refer to our school mission that targets a welcoming learning community (applicable to online), positive relationships (intentionally working to do this at a distance), and academic excellence (providing the best education for every single student to excel and grow even during distance learning). The AJ Vision looks to the future and where we want to take our school. We continue to work toward excellence as we make changes and improvements. Our school Vision guides us even in the midst of a pandemic. I encourage you to join with the professional staff and strive for the vision of providing hope, support, and encouragement to your child during this distance learning time.

***The mission of AJ is to provide a welcoming, safe learning community committed to positive relationships and academic excellence.***

***AJ's vision is to collaboratively forge a powerful model of education by utilizing innovative, engaging, and effective teaching to guarantee student learning success.***

I will begin sending out more detailed school information in the next two weeks. We now know we will be scheduling in-person kindergarten WA Kids meetings with families (virtual meetings upon request). We will be passing out chromebooks to kindergarten families at the WA Kids meeting. Look for invitations to come out next week. All other students should have a chromebook from last year. New families and families that did not receive a chromebook last year, are encouraged to check in to the office beginning today to get their chromebook. If you need a wireless hotspot, let us know so the Distance Learning Team can get you set up. We are also in the process of gathering learning kits for home use and we will organize distribution/pickup. These can be used in addition to the school supplies you buy for your child.

Our first day of school is September 9<sup>th</sup> and the first day your child will connect with their teacher at 8:40 AM. All 1st – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have been assigned a teacher, please call the office if you don't know your teacher assignment. Kindergarteners begin on September 14<sup>th</sup> and ECE/Peer Model begins on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our teachers are anxiously preparing for the beginning of school, attending online learning training next week, and various committee meetings, and educational classes. They will be in contact with you prior to the first day of school. Please watch for communication from your teacher.

At no other time has there been a greater need for us to work together in a collaborative way. Parental connection to the school and the class is vital in a distance learning environment. We are here to support you and your child and look to make this a great learning experience. Thank you for your patience and support in the process. Please call or contact me by email at [edaniel@aburun.wednet.edu](mailto:edaniel@aburun.wednet.edu) or call the office with your questions. We will make this a great year of learning!

Warm Regards,

Eric S. Daniel  
Principal