



Jonathan Alder Local Schools

*Teaching and Learning Department
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Dear Jonathan Alder Parents and Guardians,

As we settle into September, our Teaching & Learning Department is excited to share updates with you. The start of a new school year always brings fresh opportunities, and we are eager to build on the momentum already underway.

Teaching and Learning Website: Our [Teaching and Learning website](#) remains a central hub for families. Here you'll find up-to-date information, resources, and tools designed to promote student learning and family engagement. We encourage you to visit regularly to stay connected to what's happening in our schools.

2024-2025 State Report Card Released: We are proud to share that Jonathan Alder Local Schools earned an impressive 4.5-star overall rating on the 2024–2025 Ohio State Report Card—a reflection of the dedication and hard work of our students, staff, and families. The district obtained 4 stars in Achievement, highlighting strong academic performance, and 4 stars in Progress, demonstrating that our students made growth beyond state expectations. We also earned 5 stars in Gap Closing, significantly exceeding state standards in reducing educational gaps. In addition, Jonathan Alder exceeded state standards in Graduation, with a 94.6% four-year graduation rate and a 97.9% five-year graduation rate. The district met state standards in Early Literacy and in College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness (CCWMR). Together, these results reflect our shared commitment to ensuring every student has the support and opportunities needed to thrive today and into the future. As a district, we will continue working hard to sustain this level of success while also identifying areas where we can grow even stronger.

Gifted and Talented: Gifted Screening and Identification:

- Did you know that the Gifted Operating Standards for the State of Ohio allow 2 individual referrals a year for gifted identification in any area? Jonathan Alder Schools complies with the standards (Ohio Revised Code 3301-51-15) by providing the following:
 - (i) A provision of at least one whole grade screening opportunity for all students in the kindergarten through second grade band, once prior to the end of grade two, screening in the following areas: (a) superior cognitive ability, and (b) specific academic ability in the areas of mathematics and reading, writing or a combination of these skills.
 - (ii) A provision of at least one whole grade screening opportunity for all students in the third through sixth grade band, once prior to the end of grade six, screening in the following areas: (a) superior cognitive ability, and (b) specific academic ability in the areas of mathematics and reading, writing or a combination of these skills.
- Both of the requirements above are fulfilled through the administration of both the MAP test for Reading

and Math 3 times each school year, and the CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) at the end of the 2nd grade and 4th grade years.

- Should you wish to have your child assessed for gifted identification in other areas, or for superior cognitive ability outside of the 2nd or 4th grade CogAT administrations, the following rule applies:
 - In the case of students who have requested assessment or who have been recommended for assessment by teachers, parents, or other students, at least two opportunities a year for assessment regardless of the grade levels where gifted services are offered. A student's initial assessment will be completed within ninety days of referral.
- Please visit our [updated website](#) at the link below for more information and for a link to our Gifted Referral Form. Formal gifted services for identified students begin in the fall of 3rd grade

Professional Development Opportunities: Ongoing professional learning is essential for equipping our educators with the skills to serve students well. This year, professional development days are scheduled for:

- Monday, September 22, 2024
- Tuesday, November 4, 2024
- Friday, February 13, 2025
- Tuesday, May 5, 2025

Literacy Updates: Please take time to read [this document](#) about the importance of literature selection and our partnership with students and families in this process.

Digital Tools for Families: The [JA website](#) also provides information about digital learning tools to support students and families.

Stay Safe. Speak Up.: Student safety remains our top priority. Jonathan Alder Local Schools uses the Stay Safe. Speak Up! reporting system (powered by PublicSchoolWORKS). This tool allows students, parents, and staff to report safety concerns directly to school officials. A reporting button is located on our district [website](#), and you can learn more about the process in [this letter](#).

We're looking forward to all the learning and growth ahead this year. Thank you for your continued support—we couldn't do this work without our families!

Warm regards,

Jonathan Alder Teaching & Learning Department

Carla Quick, Assistant Superintendent

Becky Krall, Director of Student Services

Emily Byers, Director of Technology and Innovation

Nicole Schrock, College Career Workforce Military Readiness Coordinator