



# Heuser Hearing & Language Academy Emergency Information Meeting

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Changes Jefferson County Public Schools is making with HHLA partnership

## **50+ years Heuser Hearing & Language Academy Partnership with JCPS Deaf/Hard of Hearing Preschool & Kindergarten**



- Maximize Educational Benefit through early intervention
- Free Unlimited Educational Audiology-Access to an audiologist within 15 minutes.
- Music Therapy, Art Therapy, Dance, STREAM Lab
- Small Classes grouped by language modality, language level and developmental ages (flexible throughout the school year and across years)
- Specialized curriculum for students with hearing, speech and language needs
- Heuser provides additional equipment not provided by JCPS
- Summer Camp (except for the 2021 camp that was funded through JCPS Covid Relief funds. Camp has been provided for the last 10 years through Heuser donors.)
- Students who needed technology upgrades were gifted free technology at graduation.

## 50+ years Heuser Hearing & Language Academy Partnership with JCPS Deaf/Hard of Hearing Preschool & Kindergarten

Before Covid and will resume once the threat has passed:

- Free ticket opportunities offered through our partnerships with the community. Families are offered receive free tickets to Boo at the Zoo, family nights, Kosair Christmas Party, and the Louisville Orchestra.
- Before COVID, students were offered fieldtrips to the zoo, pumpkin patch, Kentucky Center for the Arts and the park. Heuser paid for all admission costs on the trips.
- Family events offered at the school (before Covid) and home visits made to the families.
- **EVERYTHING IS PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE**



## 10 Years ago Heuser Hearing & Language Academy began a partnership with JCPS Early Childhood

- John Marshall, Chief Equity Officer for Jefferson County Public Schools, teamed up with Heuser to begin a typical Preschool to bring opportunities to neighborhood children.
- Heuser called this program “Hearing Peers” Program.
- The Hearing Peers program also receive Art, music, Ballet, and STREAM
- Each child receives a hearing screening by an audiologist.
- Families receive free ticket opportunities to Boo at the Zoo, family nights, and the Louisville Orchestra.
- Before COVID, students were offered fieldtrips to the zoo, pumpkin patch, Kentucky Center for the Arts and the park.



## Benefits

- Small class with certified Teachers of the Deaf. This allows teachers to give each student more opportunities to listen and use language.
- The school day is designed to implement receptive and expressive language goals (and others) throughout the day
- The early intervention services provided at Heuser Hearing & Language Academy can change a child's developmental and educational path and improve outcomes for children, families, and communities.
- Heuser focuses on the “whole” child’s development: social emotional, communication, motor, sensory, adaptive skills, etc.
- Extra therapy through Art Therapy, Music Therapy and Ballet (vestibular) provided
- Immediate attention from an audiologist ensures students are: hearing at their maximum potential, get hearing devices repaired quickly, have quick access to loaner bank (school and home use), on hand for parents to ask questions, free booth sessions several times a year that provides additional information for educational programming

## Benefits

- Average language growth (before Covid) over an 8 month period: Receptive (language understood) – 14 months, Expressive (language expressed) – 12months. Average growth is a month to month growth, example if they are in school for 8 months, then an 8 month growth in both receptive and expressive would be acceptable. Heuser exceeds this expectation.
- Kindergarten MAP (Measure of Academic Progress), testing (before Covid), students with hearing loss as only disability, on level with their peers. Last MAP testing (before COVID)
  - The average YEARLY growth for kindergarten, as stated in a 2015 national study:  
Reading: 17.1 points  
Math: 19.1 Points
  - Heuser's 2018-2019 YEARLY growth for kindergarten:  
Reading: 23 points  
Math: 24 points
- Playground designed specifically for children with hearing loss and sensory needs.
- The majority of staff can communicate in all language modalities (sign language, total communication, voice). The child can communicate in all areas of the school with ease.
- All staff trained in communication remediation and expansion strategies.

## **2021-2022 Demographics of JCPS students attending Heuser Hearing & Language Academy**

D/HH – Kindergarten

White – 34%

Minority – 66%

D/HH – Preschool

White – 43%

Minority – 57%

Typical Preschool

White – 26%

Minority – 74%

## November 2021 JCPS announced drastic changes

- Jefferson County Public Schools contacted Heuser and informed CEO all staff members would be removed from the Heuser building by the end of the school year.
- All teaching staff would be moved to JCPS owned buildings.
- JCPS was changing their funding model that has been in place for 50+ years and offered to give Heuser equivalent fund in dollars instead of teaching staff.
- Heuser requested the plan for how this was going to be addressed to the parents and expressed our concerns with plan.
- Heuser has addressed concerns about new plan to the Superintendent, City Council, Board Members and stake holders. The result was the Deaf/Hard of Hearing program will be extended for one year and they would reconsider the request to keep the Hearing Peers Early Childhood Program.
- Result: Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program extended until next school year 2022-2023  
Hearing Peers to end May 2022



## How Can you Help?

- Make your Voice HEARD! Speak for those who are learning to use their voice!
- Use this website and contact your JCPS Board Member and tell them what you learned today:

<https://www.jefferson.kyschools.us/about/leadership-and-organization/board-education/board-member-district-map>

- Call, Write, Email your city Council Member! <https://apps.lojic.org/metrocouncildistricts/>
- Call, Write, Email Dr. Marty Pollio. Let him know your feelings. [Marty.pollio@Jefferson.kyschools.us](mailto:Marty.pollio@Jefferson.kyschools.us)

