

Jefferson Tigers celebrate Homecoming spirit week

Stefanie L. Prevatt
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Jefferson County K-12 School students and staff celebrated Homecoming Week Oct. 12-16, showing their Tiger pride through a variety of themed dress-up days.
Festivities kicked off Tuesday with Picture Day



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
Pictured, (left to right) Assistant Principal Alynn Howard, Principal Yolanda Smith-Davis and Assistant Principal Christie Owen.

and Dress for Success, as students arrived dressed in their best attire.
Wednesday brought a blast from the past with Decades Day, encouraging students and staff to dress in styles inspired by the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s.
On Thursday, the halls were filled with school spirit as students wore blue and orange to celebrate



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
Briana Ingram hangs out with the Tigers mascot at the homecoming pep rally.

their Tiger pride. The week concluded Friday with Pink Out Day, when students and staff were encouraged to wear pink in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
Throughout the week, students had opportunities to participate in the festivities, celebrate school traditions and show their Jefferson Tiger pride.
Go Tigers!



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
Senior Alesshia James peps up the crowd at the pep rally with spirit stick.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 14, 2026
Left to right: Kyrie Wilson 50s, Ms. Abigail Boyd (Teacher) 90s, Trinity Johnson 60s, Naeemah Paramore 90s, Grace Carbo 50s, Julisa Miller 80s, Taraji Whitfield 2000s, Mrs. Shaneika Pride (Teacher) 2000s.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 13, 2026
Naeemah Paramore (left) and Kyrie Wilson



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 13, 2026
Te'ana McCall



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 13, 2026
Angel Guzman



Photo Courtesy of Yolanda Smith-Davis
Principal Yolanda Smith-Davis (center) and two elementary students pink out for breast cancer awareness.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 13, 2026
Amiyah Wyche (left), Kelona Hazel (middle) and Amya Powell (right)



JEFFERSON COUNTY FFA



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Tigers shutout North Florida Christian in Homecoming blowout

Stefanie L. Prevatt
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The Jefferson County Middle School Tigers gave their hometown fans plenty to cheer about Thursday, Oct. 15, delivering an impressive 30-0 shutout victory over Eagles during their homecoming football game.

The Tigers controlled the scoreboard throughout the contest, demonstrating their strength on both sides of the football. The offense put together a 30-point performance, while the defense kept the

Eagles out of the end zone, securing a shutout in front of the homecoming crowd.

Leading the offensive effort were Jaylin Ghee (#1), Zaevion Ellis (#4) and Stacey Ivey (#3), who were the team's top scorers of the game. Their contributions helped power the Tigers to a commanding victory.

For the young athletes, the win was especially meaningful as they competed in front of family members, classmates and community supporters during the school's homecoming celebration. The victory also reflected the continued

development of Jefferson County's middle school football program, where young athletes are building the skills, discipline and teamwork needed to compete at the next level.

With a commanding win, the Tigers added another memorable moment to Jefferson County's homecoming festivities, giving players and fans alike a reason to celebrate. The victory brought the Tigers' season record to 3-3.

For the Jefferson County Middle School Tigers, the evening ended with a victory on the scoreboard and plenty of Tiger pride.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026

The JROTC Color Guard presented the colors during the homecoming game on Thursday, Oct. 15. Pictured, left to right, are Jesus Gomez, Saul Zelaya, Dustin Clemens and Jefferson Stephenson.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026

The referee asks Jefferson Middle School football team captains to call the opening coin toss prior to Thursday's game. Jefferson won the coin toss and chose to take possession of the ball in the second half.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026

Jaylin Ghee scores a touchdown during the first half of the homecoming football game against North Florida Christian that took place on Thursday, Oct. 15 at Tiger Stadium in Monticello.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026

Jamarion Moore pushes a North Florida Christian player out of bounds during the homecoming football game.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026

Jamarion Moore causes a fumble during the homecoming football game.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026

The Jefferson County K-12 middle school cheer squad was on hand during the Oct. 15 homecoming game to pep up the crown and football team. Back row, left to right: Za'kya Ford, Winter Crumity, Kyra Brown, Azaria Coasey and McKenzie Ford. Middle row, left to right: Sanaii Bellamy, Ashlyn Antoine, Jasmine Miller, Lavencia Chambers, Sulyria Bellamy, Za'miya Kennedy and Kerra James. Front Row: Coach Eliza Mobley.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026

Jefferson County Middle School Tigers football players celebrate a 30-0 shutout victory over the Eagles during their homecoming game Thursday, Oct. 15. The Tigers delivered a strong performance on both sides of the ball, keeping their opponents scoreless throughout the contest.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026

Ms. Shirley Washington works in the concession stand during the homecoming football game.

JCS Crowns PK through 12th grade Homecoming Court



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
2026 Homecoming Queen and King were Jakila Joyce and William Massey.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
The twelfth grade representatives were Jakila Joyce and Cameron McCray.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
The twelfth grade representatives were Destini Campbell and William Massey.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
The eleventh grade representatives were Khaylyn McCray and Destin Campbell.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
The tenth grade representatives were Raven Frazier and Athan Antoine.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
Pictured are the ninth grade representatives, Triniti Campbell and Lathan Boucher.



Photo Courtesy of Nancy Whitty
Pictured is the eighth grade Princess Ta'Chyla Crumity and Prince Quantez Parker.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
Pictured is the seventh grade Princess Amya Powell and Prince Maurice Arnold.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
Pictured is the sixth grade Princess Grace Carbo and Prince Z'Kylin Feliciano.



Photo Courtesy of Nancy Whitty
The fifth grade Princess was Kee'Myah Quinn, and the Prince was Jankee Feliciano (not pictured).



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
Pictured is the fourth grade princess Lailah Morrell and prince Zachari Young.



Photo Courtesy of Nancy Whitty
Pictured is the third grade Princess Abriella Gallon and Prince Ty'Anthony Crumity.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
Pictured is the second grade Princess Kylie Wilson and Prince Keyan Scott.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
Pictured is the first grade Princess Serenity Weaver and Prince Zaire Davis.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
Pictured is the kindergarten Princess Sofia Lopez de Nav and Prince Amir Steen.



ECB Publishing, Inc., Photo by Stefanie L. Prevatt, Oct. 15, 2026
The PK Princess was Dallas Bellamy (not pictured) and the Prince was Adrian Barron Velazquez.

JCS honors distinguished alumni at community

Stefanie L. Prevatt
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Jefferson County alumni, students and community members gathered at Tiger Memorial Stadium on Friday, Oct. 16, for the Ultimate Tailgate Rally. The event featured the Legacy of Excellence Awards, the Jefferson County Schools and Howard Academy Alumni Challenge and homecoming activities organized through the Community Leadership Council of the school's Community Partnership School.

The Legacy of Excellence Awards recognized former educators, coaches, student-athletes and musicians for their contributions to Jefferson County schools.

"The Legacy of Excellence Awards testify to someone's lifelong contributions to the county," said Sylvester Peck Sr., a Jefferson County alumnus and one of the organizers of the Alumni Challenge.

Former Jefferson County coach and agriculture teacher Max Bilinski received a Legacy of Excellence Award recognizing his years of service to the school. In addition to coaching football and teaching agriculture, Bilinski maintained the school's football turf and operated its greenhouse. He also received an honorary Jefferson County Future Farmers of America (FFA) membership certificate.

The late Jimmy Grant Wilson, a former Jefferson County Schools band director, was also honored for his contributions to music education. Wilson's wife, Mae Eva Wilson, accepted the recognition on her husband's behalf.

The 1982 state championship football team was also recognized with a Legacy of Excellence Award. Former player Darin Lamar accepted the award on behalf of the team.

Jefferson County Schools Superintendent Jackie Pons presented commemorative plaques to the three honorees, recognizing their dedication, leadership and commitment to the Jefferson County public school system, its students and the community.

The ceremony also recognized the 2026 Jefferson County Middle School football team, cheerleaders and homecoming court. Tosca Williams, Director of the Community Partnership School, explained that recognizing the middle school students was especially important because Jefferson County did not field a varsity football team this year.

"We were really proud, and the community was really proud, that the middle school team stepped up in the absence of a varsity team this year," Williams said.

She explained that organizers wanted to give the younger athletes and cheerleaders a larger stage to celebrate their accomplishments and encourage continued participation in school athletics.

Kiauna Izliah-Nealy, previously recognized as the school's first female head middle school coach, served as master of ceremonies for the awards program.

While the recognition ceremony honored Jefferson County's past and present, alumni and families gathered throughout Tiger Memorial Stadium for an afternoon of entertainment, fellowship and fundraising. The celebration also provided an opportunity to continue the Jefferson County Schools and Howard Academy Alumni Challenge, an initiative established in 2024.

According to Peck, he and fellow alumni Willie "Butch" Barnes and Sandra Saunders established the fundraiser following conversations about the need for greater community support of Jefferson K-

12 School.

Funds raised through the Alumni Challenge have already been used to support classes and student organizations at Jefferson K-12 School. For Peck, however, the effort is about more than fundraising.

"Schools don't build communities, but it's communities that build schools," Peck said.

The tailgate also provided an opportunity to reconnect former students with the school and renew a sense of Tiger pride during homecoming.

Jacqueline Seabrooks, Chair of the Community Leadership Council, emphasized the importance of alumni involvement and the pride many former students continue to have in being Jefferson County Tigers.

"There are people that are really proud of being Jefferson County alumni. There's a certain type of pride from being a Tiger," Seabrooks said. "We weren't sure whether we liked being at school, but being in the band and being a cheerleader was a big deal. The spirit and the pride for Jefferson County is still there."

The Community Leadership Council helped organize the event, bringing together community members to participate in the homecoming celebration and support the school's students. Williams said the goal was also to provide a positive event for local children and families.

Williams said the event gave alumni and community members an opportunity to celebrate homecoming while recognizing the middle school students who represented Jefferson County on the football field this season. Organizers hope the celebration will encourage continue alumni involvement and strengthen the connection between the community and Jefferson County K-12 School.



Photo Courtesy of Leroy Peck

Max Bilinski poses with his Legacy of Excellence Award. Bilinski was also inducted into the Jefferson County FFA as an Honorary Member.



Photo Courtesy of Leroy Peck

Darin Lamar accepts the his Legacy of Excellence Award on behalf of the 1982 Championship football team. With Lamar is school board member William Brumfield



Photo Courtesy of Leroy Peck

The wife of the late Jimme Wilson, Mae Eva Wilson, receives her late husband's his Legacy of Excellence Award in his honor.



Photo Courtesy of Leroy Peck

Members of the Jefferson County middle school football team were presented with a trophy for their hard work and dedication to the sport and school pride. Lamar Hughes (far right), of Our Kids Our Legacy Foundation, presented the trophy to the team during the Homecoming Ultimate Tailgate Party on Friday, Oct. 16.