



JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CELEBRATING A LEGACY

1953-2026

A LEGACY TO REMEMBER

For generations of Manitowoc families, Jackson Elementary has been more than a school; it has been a place to belong.

Built in 1953, Jackson has long been a cornerstone of the community, known for its welcoming, family atmosphere and the strong connections formed within its walls.

It was a place where students were seen, supported, and celebrated, where friendships were built, traditions were shared, and learning extended far beyond the classroom. From first-day jitters to 5th-grade graduation hugs, Jackson helped shape thousands of young Ships and the community around them.

More than just a building, Jackson Elementary will live on in the memories, relationships, and lasting impact it leaves behind.





JACKSON
JAGUARS

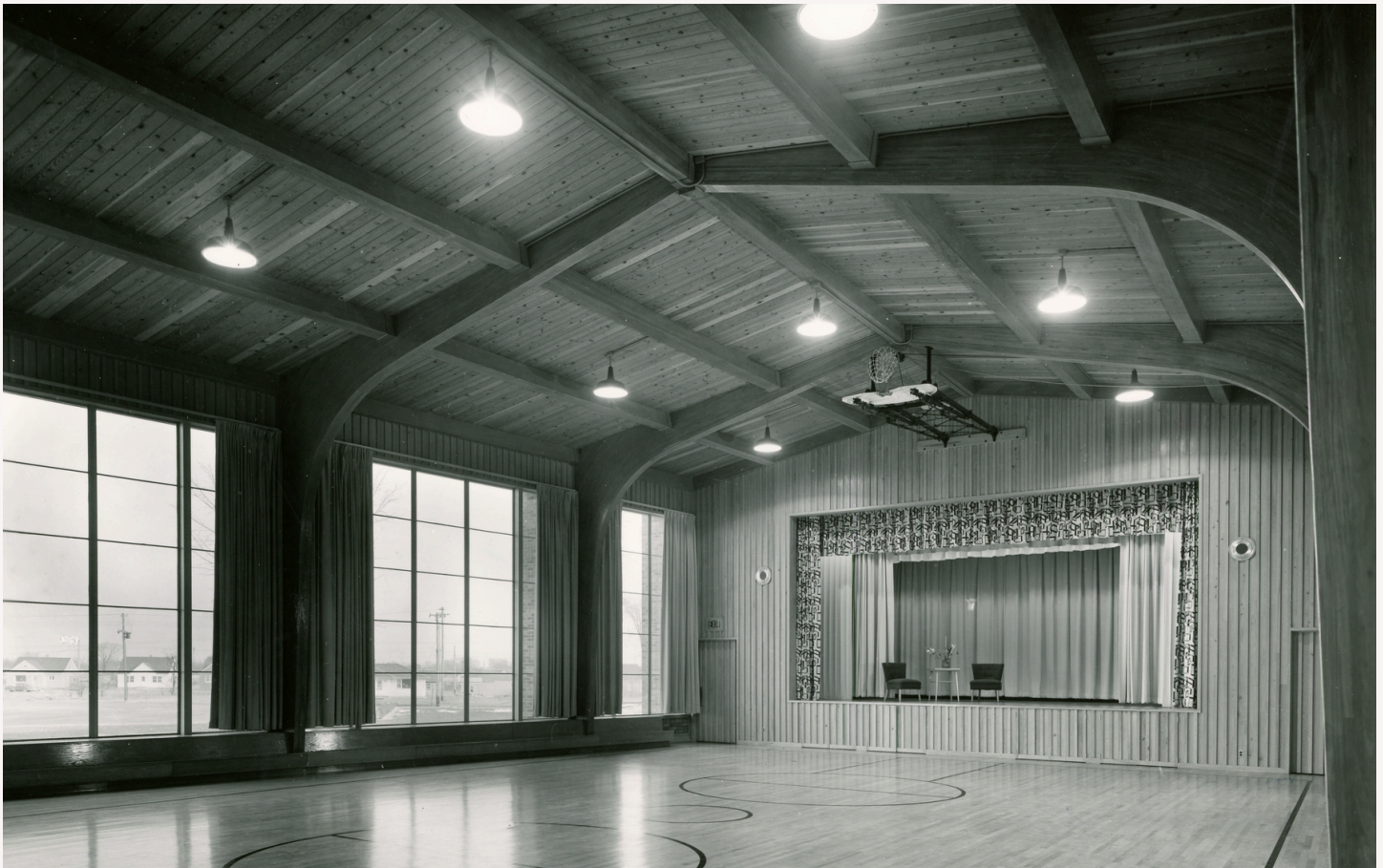
**WHERE IT
ALL BEGAN**



Andrew Jackson Elementary School, Manitowoc, Wisconsin



*Bus evacuation drill, late 1950s/early 1960s
Students participate in an early bus safety drill*



Jackson gymnasium following the 1955 addition (1956)
The expanded gym became a gathering place for generations of students



Spring bike registration, early 1960s
Students line up for spring bike registration outside Jackson

In 1967, students at Andrew Jackson Elementary came together for a school-wide effort to honor their namesake. The entire student body contributed to the project.

Their work culminated in the presentation of a portrait of Andrew Jackson, unveiled during a school assembly and displayed for all to see.

It was more than a project. It was a moment of pride, unity, and school spirit.



The portrait of Andrew Jackson is presented to the school (1967)



My mom told me to comb my hair before the picture and sent a comb with me sticking out of my shirt pocket for picture day in 1st Grade at Jackson Elementary School.

Some of my favorite memories from Jackson are the great teachers I had and the cherished friendships I made.

*Lee O'Leary II
Former Student
1966-1967*



First grade photo of Lee O'Leary II



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GROWING UP AT JACKSON



My first Jackson school memory was my first day of kindergarten, sitting on the teacher's lap (Mrs. Erickson?), sobbing because I wanted to go home.

As the year progressed, there were so many memories, someone building a ship with large wooden blocks, milk and graham crackers, nap time, and listening to the teacher read stories aloud.

*Former Student
1962-1968*



Kindergarten Class (2022)



First Grade Class (2023)



One of my favorite memories at Jackson is the special year I got to spend in the same building as our kiddo—dressing up for spirit weeks and starting and ending each day together. It truly melted my heart. That's the heart of Jackson Elementary: a familial atmosphere where staff and students support each other like a true family.

Maureen Fabian
Staff Member
2022-2026



Photos Courtesy of Maureen Fabian



My favorite Jackson memory involves Mrs. Allen! Not only was she my favorite aide as a student, but we also had a tradition when the Lincoln Band came on tour. During the song "Hey Baby," we would always find each other to dance. When I think of Jackson, this is the first memory that comes to mind. ❤️

*Rae Tompson
Former Student
2005–2011*



Walk to school day (2018)



Margo, Jared and Eli - Picnic Lunch (2025)





Former student Sebio through the years at Jackson Elementary



Once a Jackson student himself (1965–1972), Lee O’Leary returned years later to celebrate a new milestone, his grandson Elijah Fabian’s 5th-grade graduation, Class of 2025. A reminder of the generations connected through Jackson.

Maureen Fabian
Staff Member
2022–2026



Kristy with Mrs. Surfus, Kindergarten (1988)



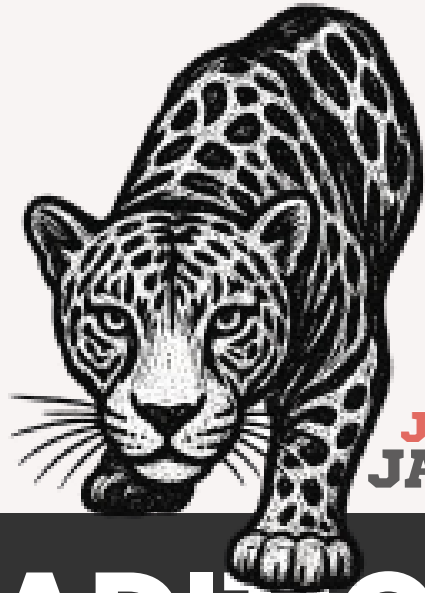
Ms. Mikkelson’s First Grade Class (1989)



Fifth Grade Graduation (2023)

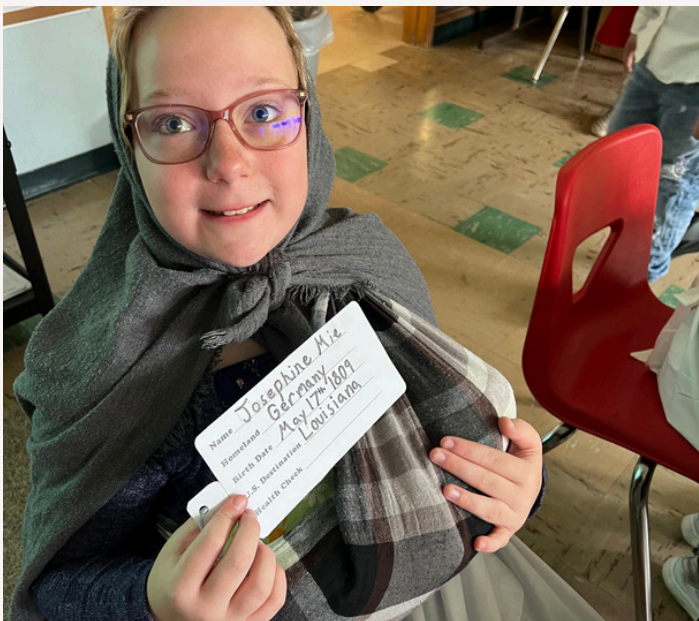


Fifth Grade Graduation (2024)



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**TRADITIONS
THAT DEFINED
JACKSON**





Egyptian Day - hands-on learning, traditional dress, and exploring ancient culture



Spring Concert with Mrs. Schultz (1993)



Spreading Cheer Through the Halls



Winter Concert



Spring Concert (2023)



First elementary musical at Jackson Elementary, Pirates Past Noon (2017)



Field trip to Pinecrest Historical Village (1995)



Field trip to Manitowoc Maritime Museum (2017)



Field trip to Heritage Hill in Green Bay (2018)



**Bob Ziegelbauer Welcomes Jackson Elementary School
to Our State Capitol - APRIL 13, 2010**

Field trip to Madison (2010)



Field trip (2021)



Each spring, Jackson came together for Field Day.

A tradition filled with excitement, laughter, and the support of dedicated staff and families. It was a day that students looked forward to all year.



Principal Bob Kautzer (Early 1980's)



Relay Starters - Mr. Deicher and Mr. DeNamur (2018)



Kindergarten School Forest Trip (2022)



Jane Boerst and Jill Cavanaugh at the School Forest



Lumberjack Day at the School Forest (1999)



School Forest Trip (2025)





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LIFE AT JACKSON



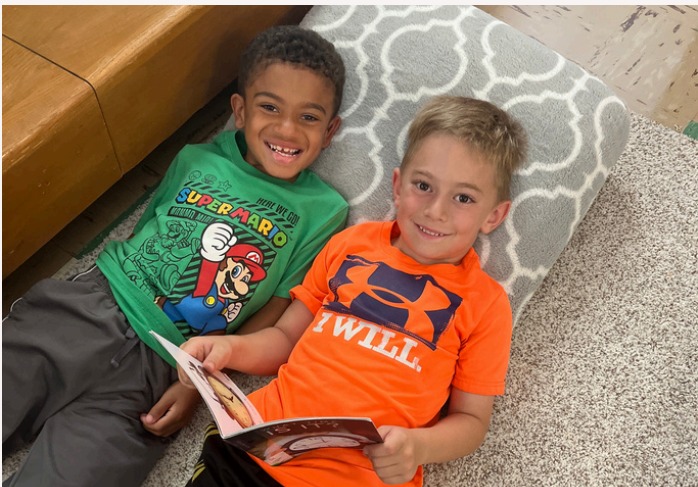
Mrs. Jaegers First Grade Class releasing butterflies (2022)



First Grade Purposeful Play (2025)



Hoffman's Second Grade & High School Mentors (2019)



Reading with Friends (2025)



First Grade Purposeful Play (2022)



Bob Kautzer enjoying the fifth grade carnival (1980's)



Elijah and Jack (2024)



Eleanor with her teacher



Jackson School Dance (2025)



Pajama Day (2025)



Second Grade Summer School at Jackson Elementary (2022)



Clowning around in First Grade (2017)



Pajama Day before Winter Break (2024)



Jackson students in front of the school sign (1998)



Mismatch Day (2022)



School Dance (2019)



Mason & Mrs. Hoffman (2025)



Last Day of School (2023)





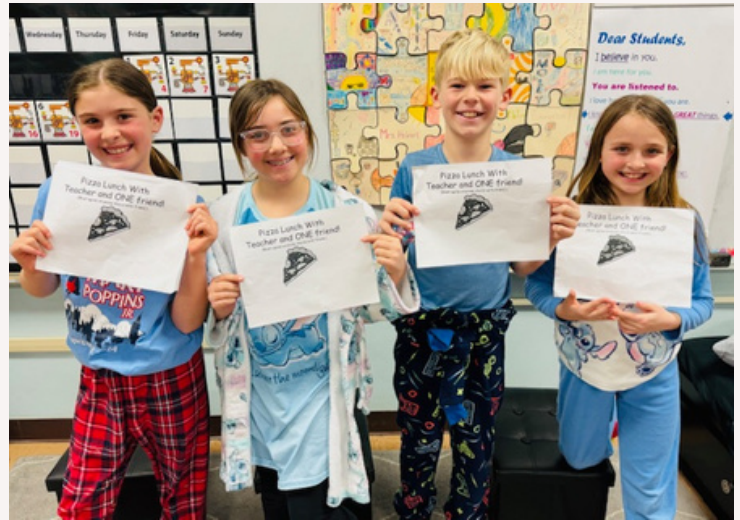
Hmong Heritage Day - students proudly sharing and celebrating their culture (2022-2023)



Activity Day 2023



100th Day of School



Auction Day in 4th grade (2023)



Jackson Fun Run (2020)



A favorite tradition, the Halloween dress up parades around the outside of the school.

*Amanda Brixius
Former Student*



Halloween Parade through the years



Celebrating Halloween



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**THE PEOPLE
WHO MADE
JACKSON**



Nancy Kapinos, Instructional Aide



Jackson principals Gene Krejcarek, Bob Kautzer, Don Desimowich, Kathy Mand



Karen Korlesky, Instructional Aide



Cindy Behrendt, Mike Lepisto, Kathy Glaeser, Chris Ausprung, Shari Lipski (2010)



5th-grade teachers - Jim Rabata, Kathy Glaeser, Jim Mellberg (1995)



Staff picnic - Jessie Schultz, Kathy Glaeser, Cindy Behrendt, Susie Beeck (1990)



Jill Cavanaugh & Mary Hoffman (2000)



Principal Don Desimowich and Betty Weber (1990)





I worked at Jackson School for 28 years as a 1st or 2nd grade teacher. I am very grateful to have worked in such a wonderful school community with some of the best staff members, students, and families.

My best memories are of the fun, community-building activities we celebrated through the years, like our dress-up days during Read Across America Week, holiday activities, Famous American dress-up days, and Winterfest days.

I look back on my years at Jackson with much pride, having worked with wonderful professionals who truly cared for the students and families of the great Jackson School community.

Mary Hoffman
Staff Member





Betty Weber, Nancy Kapinos, Linda Mullins, Mary Ellen Allen, Karen Korlesky, Fran Boeckman, and Gene Krecjarek (1995)



Mr. Lepisto's, Mrs. Perleberg's, and Mrs. Lipski's classes with Mrs. Fabian. When Mrs. Fabian started at Jackson Elementary, she was not yet married and was known to these students as Miss O'Leary. Over the years, they've called me Miss O, Miss O'Leary, Mrs. Fabian, and even Mrs. O'Fabian.



Watching them grow over the last five years has been such a blessing, and I hope they know the impact they have had on me as a paraprofessional supporting them. Just remember how important you are in this world, be kind always, and never stop being you.

*Maureen Fabian
Staff Member*



The heart of Jackson Elementary lies in its familial atmosphere, where staff and students support one another like a true family. It's a place where everyone is known, valued, and encouraged—creating a sense of belonging that makes Jackson feel like home.





Mason & his teacher (2025)



She knows she's the BEST without even saying her name. She went out of her way all year to borrow a Vikings jersey for us, and even when he wasn't in her class the following year, she got us a signed WWE wrestler photo.

Her kindness means the world to us.

*Emili Shallow
Parent/Guardian*



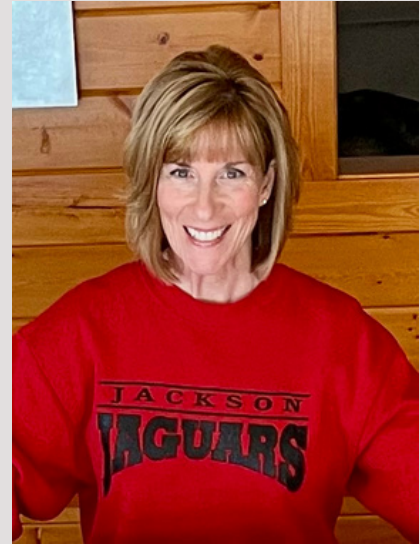
From the very first day of 1st grade to 5th grade graduation all of the AMAZING staff at Jackson helped mold my son into who he is today. They never gave up on him, they helped him grow and find who he is, they helped him find ways to face his challenges, most importantly they accepted him for who he was, struggles and all. Thank you Jackson for all you have done for not only my family, but the other 1000s of families you have helped over the years.

*Jennie Mueller
Parent/Guardian*





For 45 years, Jackson School has been more than just a place I went each day—it has been a second home. I had the privilege of beginning my journey as a 5th-grade teacher on the corner of 18th and Menasha. After 34 years, I retired, but continued as a substitute at Jackson. For the last 6 years, I have been returning weekly as a volunteer. Each role allowed me to stay connected to a place that has meant so much to me and to continue doing what I love most: working with students.



The heart of Jackson School has always been its people. The kiddos brought energy, curiosity, and so much joy into each day, constantly reminding me why I chose this path. My colleagues grew to be more than coworkers—they became family, offering support, laughter, and lifelong friendships. And the parents and broader community created an environment of encouragement and care that made Jackson School truly special.

Looking back, I feel deeply grateful for every moment spent here. The relationships I've built and the memories I carry will always stay with me. Jackson School has shaped my life in ways I will never forget, and it will always hold a very special place in my heart. Just as I always told my students...“Once you're mine, you're always mine.”

Kathy Glaeser
Former Teacher





For many, an elementary school is just a building where they learned how to read and played at recess. For me, Jackson Elementary is something much deeper. It is where I grew up, found my voice, and eventually found my calling. Over the years, my role within these walls has changed, from student to high school aide to staff member, but the sense of belonging has remained constant.



My journey began here as a student, though it wasn't always easy. I remember falling behind my peers in first grade and feeling a frustration I couldn't quite name. Jackson was the place that finally provided answers. It was here that educators looked beyond my struggles and diagnosed my learning disability. That diagnosis wasn't a label; it was a key. It gave me the support I needed to succeed and taught me that I learned differently, not less.

Years later, I returned as a teacher's aide during my senior year of high school. Stepping back into those classrooms felt like a full-circle moment. I saw the same dedication in the teachers who had once helped me, but this time, I was part of that support for others.

Today, I walk these halls as an employee. When I see a student struggling, I see myself. Jackson gave me the tools to succeed, and now I have the opportunity to help provide those same tools to the next generation.

To me, Jackson Elementary isn't just a school, it's a foundation. It is the place that understood me when I didn't understand myself, and it continues to shape who I am today.

Forever A Jaguar,
Dean M. Sleger
Staff Member



Jackson Elementary School was my second home for 33 years. I taught sixth grade my first year and fourth grade for the next 32, creating memories I will always cherish.

Our staff was like family. I was fortunate to teach under principals like Don Desimowich and Kathy Mand, and alongside incredible colleagues like Sandee O'Connell and Amy Williams. From our dedicated office staff to our custodians and instructional aides, so many people helped make Jackson a place that felt like home.

Jackson families were just as amazing. Always ready to volunteer, support the classroom, and build lasting connections. Many became lifelong friends.

There were so many traditions that made Jackson special—Immigrant Day, which began in 1999, field trips, and the unforgettable Christmas concerts with Tracey Schultz. Each year ended with Track and Field Day, bringing students, staff, and families together in celebration.

Thank you, Jackson, for the memories.

*Cindy Behrendt
Former Staff Member*



Dominic & Mrs. Behrendt (2018)



Lana Brunner, Betty Weber, Bob Kautzer, Kathy Glaeser, Cindy Behrendt



Jackson Elementary is where my love for learning began and where I first felt what it meant to belong. From first through sixth grade, it was more than a school; it was a place that felt safe, joyful, and full of possibility.

I carry so many memories from those years, discovering a love for reading and writing, hands-on experiences like Ellis Island and our countries project, and friendships that have lasted into adulthood. Jackson didn't just shape my education—it helped shape who I am.

The year that stands out most is fifth grade in Mrs. Glaeser's classroom. She had a way of making everything feel special—we felt like a family. I can still picture read-alouds on the wooden bleachers, math challenges, and the little details that made it unforgettable. That was the year my confidence began to grow. Even after I left her classroom, she continued to support me—encouraging my path into teaching and welcoming me back to learn from her. She changed the course of my life, and I have so much to thank her for.

Now, as I finish my 12th year of teaching, I think often about Jackson—about the way my teachers made me feel: seen, supported, and inspired. While it's hard to see Jackson close, I am incredibly grateful to have been part of it. It will always live on in me and in the way I teach every day.

Lauren Urumoglu (Faust)
Former Student

JACKSON SCHOOL SONG

A tradition carried through generations of Jackson students.

The time we've had together

is coming to an end,

the things we've learned,

the laughs we shared,

the days we got to spend.

Until we meet again someday,

our thoughts will be nearby.

But till that day, and just for now,

it's time to say goodbye.

But till that day, and just for now,

it's time to say goodbye.

Goodbye.

FOREVER A JAGUAR

Jackson Elementary has always been more than a place to learn; it has been a place to belong. For generations, students, families, and staff have filled these halls with laughter, support, and a deep sense of community.

Here, moments became memories, small ones that mattered and big ones that stayed with us. While this chapter comes to a close, the impact it has made will continue far beyond these walls, carried forward by everyone who was part of it. Wherever life leads next, Jackson will always be part of our story.

Thank You

Thank you to the many students, families, staff, and community members who shared photos and memories for this book. The overwhelming response reflects how deeply Jackson Elementary has been part of so many lives.

While we couldn't include every submission, each memory is valued and appreciated. Your stories helped capture the heart of Jackson and its lasting impact.

With gratitude to those who contributed:

Emili & Mason Shallow, Jennie Mueller & Sebio Garcia, Kathy Glaeser, Maureen & Daniel Fabian, Jill Cavanaugh, Cindy Behrendt, Dean Sleger, Lauren Urumoglu (Faust), Rochelle Meylink, Rae Tompson, Kristy Buda, Lucy & Dominic Buda, Lee O'Leary II, Stacy Jaeger, Amanda Brixius, Amy Wiesner, Mary Hoffman, Ryan Hansen, Pam Brick, Amy Kmetz, Steven Kleinfeldt





ONCE A JAGUAR, ALWAYS A JAGUAR

Jackson Elementary School
Manitowoc, WI

