

April 25, 2022

Dear Jefferson Academy Community and Board of Directors,

My name is Jerrilynn Lilyblade and this is my letter of intent to run for a position on the JA Board of Directors. There are some big shoes to fill from those who are leaving and have left. The skills I bring are my superpowers of listening, observing, researching and learning, communicating, and common sense, as well as being a big fan of Jefferson Academy and the community surrounding our school.

My husband, Mark, and I first found about Jefferson Academy when our daughter was an infant. We loved the ideals, the core values, and the mission of the school. When she was ready for kindergarten, we waited nervously for a spot. I was so certain it was the right fit, that I didn't have a second school as a backup plan. Luckily, we did get in and although there have been some hiccups, it has been a perfect fit for our daughter. We have successfully navigated through her school years being outside the norm as a Gifted and Talented, Twice-Exception student. The staff has been amazing in accommodating students and finding success for those who learn differently. My daughter is now an 8th grader, and even though Kindergarten was just yesterday, she is heading to high school next year.

We started Kindergarten the year after the secondary moved to the new campus, and a year behind the expansion class. At the time, there was still a strong K-12 community feeling. Over those next few years, I felt like some of that had waned as the campuses split, and I saw issues with the growth of the school through our elementary years. However, the underlying community is still strong, and I am excited for the re-emphasis on JA as a K-12 school. I hope to work with the board to expand and improve this. I also feel we have settled into our growth, and we have strong school leaders. I feel proud telling others about JA.

Parental involvement in the school is key and I love that it is strong with the JA community. I have been an active volunteer since day one at both the elementary and secondary, some years putting in more than 1000 volunteer hours. I spent several years on the elementary PTO, serving as secretary and president. During my time of president, I learned to put the school and our students' needs first through crisis, as well as keeping the PTO strong and trustworthy. I also have been part of Boosters thru the last two years. Volunteering has been the perfect way to help at school, and to connect with students, staff, and other parents.

I have served on the School Accountability Committee (SAC) for the past 7 years where I have worked closely with school leaders, parents, staff, and the JA board finding out how our school is doing thru the eyes of our parents. Through survey feedback, SAC was able to recommend many improvements and changes that have been implemented by the board and school leaders. I also have recently

joined the Communications committee helping work towards a unified brand to our K-12 school.

My background is in communications. I have degrees from the University of Colorado - Boulder in Journalism, and from the Colorado Institute of Art in Communication Technology. In that capacity, I have worked for a large health insurance company, a construction company, a magazine publisher and in software. For the past 23 years, I have worked in Localization doing design and quality assurance/proofing in many languages. I have been a freelancer for 21 of those years which gives me a lot of flexibility in my schedule. I also taught college level courses at both the Colorado Art Institute and Metro State University, which has given me some insight and perspective from an educator's point of view.

Outside of work and JA, I volunteer with the Girl Scouts as a troop leader; with Destination Imagination as a team manager and as an appraiser; and with BookGive, a local charity that takes book donations and redistributes them to groups in need.

If I am elected to the board, my goal is to help oversee the next three years of growth and improvement. I love being involved with students, teachers and parents and helping find what needs work and what works well. I can be open-minded and see multiple sides to an issue to help find solutions. While I can be serious about that which needs it, I also like to see the world with a sense of humor. We often complain about everything that goes wrong, but to be able to laugh and move forward can be rewarding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerrilynn Lilyblade". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Jerrilynn Lilyblade