

Navigating the Admissions Process

**Thomas Jefferson
High School
for
Science and Technology**



What is TJ?



A 4-year comprehensive high school for “those who have demonstrated high achievement, aptitude, commitment, intellectual curiosity, and creativity in mathematics, science, and technology.”

(FCPS School Board Policy 3355.2)

TJHSST Mission

“...is to provide students a challenging learning environment focused on **math**, **science**, and **technology**, to inspire joy at the prospect of discovery, and to foster a culture of innovation based in ethical behavior and the shared interest of humanity.”



What makes TJ different?

- TJ is the Virginia Regional Governor's School for Science and Technology for Northern Virginia.
- Students are selected through a competitive selection process.
- All students must earn the TJ Diploma.



The TJ Diploma

- 4 science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geosystems)
- 4 math (through AP Calculus)
- 3 technology (incl. Computer Science)
- 2 fine/practical arts (incl. “Tech”)
- 4 English
- 4 social studies
- 3 foreign language (in one language)
- 2 health & physical education



What makes TJ different?

- All courses gifted, AP, or post-AP
- Integrated courses for integration of related ideas & flexible class time



Freshman Year

- **IBET**
Integrated
Biology,
English &
Technology



Sophomore & Junior Year

HUM

Integrated Humanities

- 10th grade: English & World History & Geography 2
- 11th grade: English & U.S. History


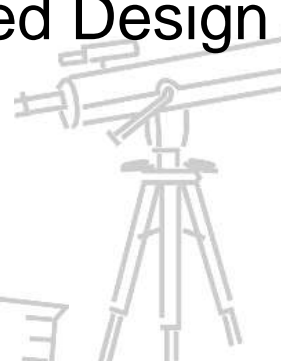





Senior Year



Research Laboratories

- Astronomy
 - Biotechnology
 - Communication Systems
 - Computer Systems
 - Energy Systems
 - Modern Physics
 - Oceanography
 - Automation & Robotics
 - Chemical Analysis
 - Computer Assisted Design
 - Microelectronics
 - Neuroscience
 - Prototyping
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Mentorship Program

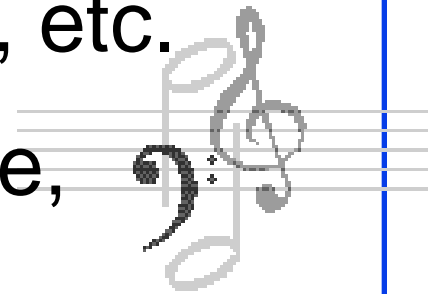
Additional Science Courses

- DNA Science
- Neurobiology
- Numerical Analysis
- Nature of Materials
- Bio Nanotechnology
- Artificial Intelligence
- Organic Chemistry
- Computational Physics



Is it just science and tech?

- Electives offered in all subject areas.
- Art, band, orchestra, choir, drama, journalism, photography, yearbook, etc.
- Foreign languages include: Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish.



The TJ Day

- School Hours
 - 8:30 AM until 3:50 PM
- 8 Periods
- Block Scheduling
- No Bells!



Eight Periods?!

- **Period 8 is an activity period**
 - guidance activities, study hall, tutoring, lab work, school publications, etc.
 - clubs & other activities
- **Over 185 activities offered**

Life at TJHSST

- Homecoming, pep rallies, sock hops, etc.
- Newspaper, Yearbook & Magazines
- Chorus, Orchestra & Band
- Theater Program
- 25 Varsity Sports
(incl. crew)



What is TJ looking for?

- **Aptitude** for successful study of
 - science, math, computer science
 - technological
- Prior academic **Achievement**



- **Genuine Interest/ Curiosity/ Creativity** in study of **Math, Science, and Technology**
- **“Background, skills or experiences** that promote the School Board’s goal of providing diversity in the student body to enhance a unique learning experience and to develop future leaders.”

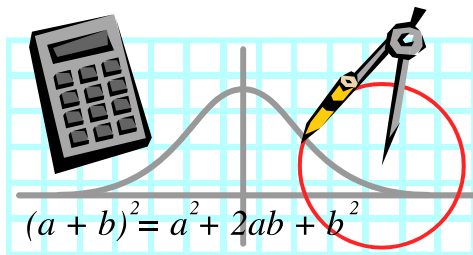


TJ Admissions in a Nutshell



Eligibility Requirements

- 8th grade to apply to 9th
- Residency in a participating school division
- Algebra 1 or higher in 8th grade



Timeline – Stage 1

- Applications available in September
- Applications due late October
- Admissions Test in December

Timeline – Stage 2

- Semifinalist Notification in January
- Packets completed in February
- Final Decisions in April



The Admissions Website

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

Admissions

TJHSST

Science and Technology

[Main](#) | [Eligibility](#) | [Freshmen](#) | [Sophomores & Juniors](#) | [Testing](#) | [Contact](#)

6560 Braddock Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22312
703-750-8300

www.TJAdmissions.org



Getting Prepared



How can you be a strong candidate?

- Work hard and get the best grades possible in all core courses: Math, Science, English, Social Studies (7th grade and 8th grade)
- Be an enthusiastic learner!



How can you be a strong candidate?

- Pursue interests in science, math, and technology
- Work on writing and communication skills
- Algebra 1 in 8th grade



What Kinds of Interests and Activities?

- In-school and out-of-school activities (during the school year and during the summer), both organized and self-initiated
- School Programs: Science Fair, Future Problem Solvers, Odyssey of the Mind, Science and Math Olympiads, Math Teams, and Class projects



What Kinds of Interests and Activities?

- Summer Enrichment Programs: TJ Summer Tech, FCPS Tech Adventure Camps, Johns Hopkins CTY program, GMU summer programs
- Community Service (NJHS, tutoring, Scouts, etc.)
- Libraries, Museums, Special Events



What can you do to prepare for test day?

- Read! Read!! Read!!!
- Work on math skills
 - do hard problems in math
 - go the extra mile
- Practice essay writing skills
- Review *Student Handbook*



Student Handbook

**For the Admissions Test for Thomas Jefferson
High School for Science and Technology**

Fairfax County Public Schools

Can be downloaded at
www.TJAdmissions.org
under “Resources.”



How can parents help ?

- Be an advocate for your child!
- Encourage interests and activities in science, math, and technology





To learn more about TJHSST for 2009-2010



Visit us at

Open House!

A Saturday morning in
late September/early October



U N I T Y P U B L I C S C H O O L

Warren



Information for Applicants

The Admissions Website

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