



# Jefferson Pride

## A Great Start! The Dr. Plotts Report

### JTHS Happenings:

- Thank you to all the parents who attended Back To School Night on September 22nd. We had an increase in attendance from the prior year, and we appreciate your partnership and continued support.
- 51 colleges attended the Mini-College Fair on September 28th. Students were exposed to a wide array of educational and programmatic options.
- Please follow us on our new Twitter account by clicking on the "Follow Me" link in the center of the high school home page.
- Keith Hawkins provided an outstanding motivational assembly on improving culture and climate at the student based level. Keith provided 2 assemblies for the student body, attended a PDP Retreat, and had lunch with several of our students.
- The Marching Band hosted the "Kickoff Classic" band competition at JTHS. With nine bands in attendance from all over New Jersey, the falcon band members had a great performance.

The month of September has quickly come and gone. With the changing season, we are launching the first edition of our high school newsletter called "Jefferson Pride." In an effort to increase and improve communication between our high school, our parents, and community this letter has been developed. This newsletter will be sent home in digital format through our Blackboard system. Trying to be more environmentally responsive, we are minimizing paper usage as we use a digital format. With each school month, we will be reporting on the many curriculum based initiatives, activities, events, and school-based newsworthy items going on in the high school. The students and

staff of JTHS got the school year off to a great start. The energy and enthusiasm that is felt in the hallways is due to the outstanding efforts of the teachers and staff who made our opening successful. I would like to personally thank all the teachers for their diligent planning and preparation for the 16/17 school year. Their classrooms, hallways, and bulletin boards demonstrated the Falcon Spirit that we have all come to know and love.

The start of the 2016 school year has seen a lot of notable changes. The biggest would be the addition of The Academy for Environmental Science. Through a cooperative grant and partnership with Kean University and with the Mor-

ris County School of Technology, this program has had a terrific launch at JTHS. With 15 students in the initial program, we have students attending from surrounding districts as well as in-house Jefferson students.

The JTHS morning announcements show "Good Morning Jefferson" is now streaming live. If you are interested in seeing our live morning broadcasts you can access the link in the middle of the high school home page under "Good Morning Jefferson." just click on the link that says "Click Here to Open GMJ for Windows."

We hope you enjoy the first edition of the Falcon Pride Newsletter!



## Science Curriculum Connections with Mr. Hiben, Science Supervisor

Science instruction is largely focusing on science practices and measurement. Students can be found immersed in characteristics of life, density, the metric system all while learning how to think like a scientist. The skills and concepts reviewed in September will be

used throughout the school year.

The science department is also preparing for a day long training event (9/29) on how to effectively use the new Vernier probe-ware they recently acquired. The new equipment and training will allow lab activities to have an additional

quantitative component and give students a more authentic experience.

The Academy for Environmental Science inaugural class at JTHS!



Music was played by the JTHS band at the Pep Rally! Thank you, band members and thank you, Dr. Tierney for your Falcon Fever!

*"Hello Dr. Plotts, My wife and I had a really great back to school night last night. All of the teachers we met were very helpful and explained their policies well. The building looked great, and we got a lot out of the evening. Please thank your staff for hosting us, I know it was a late night for your teachers and they did a super job. Our daughter is in good hands."*



The Football, Cross Country, Soccer, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Soccer, and Field Hockey teams seasons are all underway!

## World Language, ESL and Music Curriculum Connection with Mr. Sica, World Language Supervisor

### Marching Band

On September 17 the Jefferson Township High School Golden Falcon Marching Band hosted their 8th annual "Kickoff Classic" marching band competition. This event "kicks off" the Tournament of Bands competitive marching band season each year which includes competitions throughout 5 states on the east coast. The event was a great success and featured our own Dr. Plotts as the announcer for the

event. The Golden Falcons presented the debut of their season show called "The Witch and the Saint," which can also be enjoyed at home football games at halftime!

### American Sign Language

Level 1 American Sign Language students are learning how to introduce themselves in ASL. They are also learning the alphabet and how to spell words that do not have a designated sign, such as the names for people,

places and certain things. We have begun using furrowed eyebrows as a non-manual grammatical principle. Students are learning that furrowed eyebrows are expected when asking a WH-question word. (who, what, where, when, why, how many, how much & how). We have also begun Glossing. Glossing is when we translate written English word in ASL structure.

## Athletics Connection with John DiColo, Athletics Director

The fall 2016 athletic season is underway for the Jefferson High School Falcons. All of our student athletes have prepared for successful seasons. Our fall sports include: Cheerleading, Cross County, Field Hockey, Football, Soccer, and Volleyball. The student athletes have been recognized for their outstanding sportsmanship, and we look to see this continue during the 2016

-2017 academic year.

In case you haven't heard ... please wear white for our "White Out" events. White out t-shirts are sold during lunches in the cafeterias (or see any girl volleyball players.)

Go Falcons!!!



## Instructional Technology Curriculum Connections with Kelly Villa, Instructional Technology Supervisor

The science and social studies departments are utilizing online textbooks. Additionally, these departments have adopted a one to one initiative. The teachers are expanding their use of Google Apps for Education (GAFE) utilizing various apps and extensions, as well as parent

notifications. This school year we have increased our laptop carts from 11 in 2015 to 25 in 2016. With the increase in technology, we are looking improve our PARCC preparedness and readiness as we increase student rigor and achievement in all academic areas. The student

utilization of additional laptops addresses the needs of our digital learners in today's classrooms.

## Math and Business Curriculum Connections with Dr. Petric, Math and Business Supervisor

The mathematics department submitted three new course proposals to the Board of Education – Algebra I Honors, AP Computer Science Principles, and AP Calculus BC. All three courses were approved and will begin to be offered for the 2017-2018 school year. Additionally, over the summer the mathematics curriculum framework was updated and aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The mathematics department bought a one year Kuta

software site license. This will empower teachers to do customizable assignments and assessments without the loss of meaningful time.

The business department submitted eight new course proposals. Students could receive college credit through five courses: AP Microeconomics, AP Macroeconomics, Accounting Honors CLEP, Introductory Business Law Honors CLEP, Marketing II Honors CLEP. Additionally,

students may enroll in three highly rigorous business classes: Advertising and Promotion, Entrepreneurship, Sports and Entertaining Marketing.



This T-Shirt launcher was developed by students in Mr. Januszkeski's Robotics Class. 20 T-shirts were launched into the crowd enhancing our great school culture and climate!

## Fine and Studio Art, Related Arts & Social Studies Curriculum Connection with Mr. Papa, Supervisor

In JTHS social studies classes we have successfully integrated our online textbook in cooperation with the laptop carts to enhance our instructional practices and promote deeper student engagement. In addition, our social studies teachers have established Google Classroom as their learning management system to further extend the reach of their instruction to outside of the

school day. Through Google Classroom, students are able to participate in online discussions, complete formative assessments, and access their classroom resources at any time.

In Robotics and Engineering our students have been using the Maker Bot 3D printer to produce the products they are creating online. The students built a t-shirt launcher that was used at

the fall pep rally to launch Falcon t-shirts.

The Wood shop is designing projects for the school year and are using the new band saw and lathe to build and create incredible masterpieces. Mr. Warncke attended an incredible workshop this past summer and is looking to challenge his students to create innovative projects with the knowledge he acquired.

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*“Education is not the learning of facts; it’s rather the training of the mind to think!”*

*Albert Einstein*

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## Language Arts & Media Curriculum Connections with Ms. Jennifer Wnuk, Language Arts and Media Supervisor

Core Skills teacher Patty Vandigriff hosted Dr. Rich Edwards from Baylor University for the debate seminar on September 26th. Students from Mount Olive, Sparta, Sussex Vo-Tech & West Morris Central attended. This cross district workshop addressed the topic: Engagement

with China.

The ELA department kicked off the school year with Eric LeGrand's book *Believe*. This One Book One School initiative helped build a unified student body through an engaging and inspirational text as they entered the 2016-2017 school year. Stu-

dents look forward to his visit on October 20th.

A special thanks to the PTSA, Football Boosters, and Board of Education for sponsoring this highly anticipated event.



Pep Rally 2016! Go Falcons!!!

Jefferson Township High School  
1010 Weldon Road  
Oak Ridge, New Jersey 07438

Phone: 973-697-3535



**Were on the web! Visit us at  
[www.jefftwp.org](http://www.jefftwp.org), follow us on  
Twitter @jthsfalcons.**

*Student Success at JTHS! Olga Sokiran*

*Article By: Amanda Ventri, Senior Student*

*With a vast amount of students at Jefferson Township High School (JTHS), it is important to draw attention to those who are successful. Olga Sokiran, a current JTHS senior, has been named a Commended Student in the 2017 Merit Scholarship Program. The competition is highly competitive in the state of New Jersey and Commended Students are in the top five percent of the more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2017 competition for the PSATs nationally.*

*Upon receiving this distinction, Sokiran was humble about her achievement. When I spoke with her on the matter, she stated that she wanted it to be known that anyone can “work hard and achieve anything they want in life.” Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, some of these students do become candidates for Special Scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses. JTHS wishes Sokiran luck in her future endeavors and anticipates many more great accomplishments in her future.*

## Special Education Curriculum Connection with Mr. Rebholz, Special Education Supervisor

Students who participate in our transition program at JTHS are exposed to internships and paid employment in fields that they are interested in pursuing after graduation. The process started early this year with Ms. Wildermuth's transitions class completing a web quest that helped the students explore different career clusters and occupations. The transition program, under Mrs. Thomas, partnered with local businesses and organizations such as The Hilton-Garden Inn, McDonald's, Little Learner Academy, Jefferson Lumber, Headley Lumber, Shop Rite, National Church Residences, The Westwind Manor, Pomptonian Food Services, P.G. Chambers School, and

the Olive Garden. Students in the Transition program have gained real-world experience in the career of their choosing through Structured Learning Experiences.

Mrs. Vanderbok's class continues to volunteer at the thrift store run by the Milton United Methodist Church every Tuesday. They help fold clothes, vacuum, price merchandise and straighten shelves. They also help out the food pantry by going food shopping at Shop Rite. They assist at the food pantry twice a month to help them set up the food for those in need. Her biology class has been learning about cells and last week got together with

Mrs. Hopper's AP Biology class to look at cells through microscopes.



Students with some of the 51 attending colleges at the Mini-College fair.