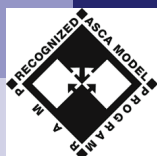




## Jefferson Township High School Newsletter

## Jefferson Pride

8th Annual  
AP<sup>®</sup> District  
Honor Roll  
Recipient



## JTHS

Back to School: *Dr. Plotts*

## Happenings:

- Marching Band Competition
- Keith Hawkins Assembly
- Back to School Night
- Student Activities Fair



*Keith Hawkins  
Inspires students  
to be kind to each  
other.*



The 2018-2019 school year is off to an incredible start. The days are starting to get cooler and with that comes the many things that the Fall season has to offer at JTHS for the 2018-2019 school year. The maintenance and custodial staffs have been busy over the summer with several facilities based improvements. Most notably, the auxiliary gym was painted and refreshed. Several of our classrooms have been reconstructed to meet the ever changing needs of our student body. Student safety and security is a paramount concern for everyone at Jefferson Township High School. The building entrance, after 7:35 AM and until 2:15 PM, is now by the guidance office entrance at door #3. Once you enter the retention vestibule we are using a visitor management system that requires you to present your driver's license or government issued I.D. This increased security measure provides for a better and safer educational environment for all. Also located at this door is a bin for items being dropped off for students.

Jefferson Township High School is excited to be continuing our growth and progress of the "The Academy for Environmental Studies." This is a joint venture between Jefferson Township Public Schools and the Morris County School of Technology, and will continue to provide students with scientific knowledge about the natural world while at the same time exploring the environmental, economic, and social aspects of these interactions and how they influence decision-making and policy. Upon graduation, students will have the foundation needed to pursue a degree in environmental studies in preparation for one of the growing numbers of environmental careers in resource management, engineering, business, non-profit work, law, conservation, or education. Each cohort is comprised of approximately fifteen students from all over Morris, Warren and Sussex County, as well as multiple students from Jefferson. This year in collaborative partnership with Kean University our students will be able to conduct field based research at Jefferson's own Kean Universities Highlands Campus. The campus is complete with dormitories, a pristine lake for research, and a recently built skywalk in the tree canopies. We are excited to continue working with Kean University and look forward to utilizing the incredible habitat that Jefferson Township provides for future scientific research.

Technology is a constant in the Jefferson Township School District. Last year, we were able to implement a One-To-One Laptop Computer initiative where all students in grades 6-11 received Lenovo Thinkpad laptops. This year students in grades 6-12 have received their laptops. Jefferson Township High is proud to continue to use Google and the Google Management Platform for all our student based instructional delivery.

I would also like to mention just a few accomplishments of the Jefferson Township High School Community in the past year: Jefferson Township High School was the only high school in New Jersey during the 17/18 school year named as a Program of Excellence by the Directors of Athletics Association of New Jersey. Jefferson Township High School was voted as a 2018 Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation. Jefferson Township High School was recognized by the American School Counseling Association as a Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP). Jefferson Township High School was the winner of the First Robotics Competition with Team 2600. Jefferson Township High School has been recognized by our Unified Track and Field Program by growing from two schools in year 1 to 9 schools in year 2 with over 90 athletes participating.

I would like to thank all the summer staff for their outstanding efforts in making the opening of school a successful one. The work that has gone on all summer long is a credit to the outstanding staff that Jefferson has and we appreciate their tireless efforts!

I look forward to you and your child having a successful 2018-2019 school year. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the high school staff and myself for assistance throughout the school year.

Continued Success in 2018/2019!

*Tim Plotts, Ed. D.*  
Principal

## Athletics Connection: *Mr. Koch*



Welcome back Falcon Fans. It was a long summer without Athletics in full swing but we are happy to have all of our amazing Student-Athletes and fans back on campus.

We look forward to another exciting fall sports season and are already tremendously proud of our Student-Athletes for all of their hard work in the off season, pre-season and first few weeks of competition. JTHS is now partners with the NFHS Network. This partnership allows all games to be broadcast LIVE on the NFHSnetwork.com website. The live streaming has begun on the turf and will soon be coming to the Freedom Gym. All proceeds from Network subscriptions go to support all athletes here at JTHS. JTHS is excited to announce the official partnership with the Positive Coaching Alliance creating Better Athletes, Better People. Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA), a national non-profit developing "Better Athletes, Better People" by working to provide all youth and high school athletes a positive, character-building sports experience.

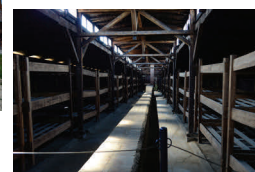
The partnership provides Jefferson Twp. access to PCA's training for coaches, sports parents, student-athletes and administrators, live group workshops, online courses, books by PCA Founder Jim Thompson and additional online resources, such as e-mailed follow-up tips and reminders.

PCA has partnered with roughly 3,500 schools, districts, conferences, youth sports organizations and park-and-rec departments to create a Development Zone™ culture, where the goal is using youth and high school sports to develop Better Athletes, Better People, Thompson said. "We look forward to working with Jefferson Twp to create the best possible experience for the student-athletes. Our research-based materials combine the latest in sports psychology, education and practical advice from top pro and college coaches and athletes that help improve athletic performance while also ensuring kids take life lessons from sports that will help them throughout the rest of their lives."

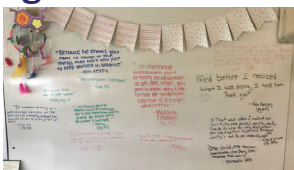
JTHS has also recently upgraded our weight room to offer our Students a more functional space that allows them to train for today's needs. The upgraded weight room now houses a massive functional training rig allowing for maximum participation by athletic teams and students to train. The weight room will continue to evolve as we move forward. Stay tuned. Please follow all of our Fall programs on Twitter: Football@JTwpFootball, Cheer @jths\_cheer, Cross Country @JTHSXC, Boys Soccer @JTHSBoysSoccer, Girls Soccer @GirlsSoccerJTHS, Girls Volleyball @JTHSGirlsVball, Field Hockey @JTHSGirlsFH

## Social Studies Connection: *Mr. Papa*

Mr. Boyle attended the Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Teachers Program this past summer. He traveled from June 26th through July 10th with a group of educators to Germany and Poland to tour many concentration and death camps. Mr. Boyle is currently teaching our Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights course where he will share his experience with his students and provide deeper insights into this era of human history.



## English Connection: *Ms. Russo*



English 10 - Students participated in small book clubs to discuss the summer reading book they chose. Using Socratic seminars students held book talks based on their chosen summer reading book. They added favorite quotes to our "reading graffiti" board that we will add to as the year continues, helping to create our own reading community in the classroom.

## Business Department Connection: *Ms. Villa*

**Media Center:** New website. The website is accessible from the high school page under "Students & Parents." We have 2 NEW databases this year:

Cengage: Environmental Studies and Policies and

Proquest: Science and Technology

**Business:** The Sports and Entertainment Marketing class & DECA group are working on a Community Service/Fundraising Event to be held on March 23, 2019. In partnership with Dream for Kids, Inc., we will be hosting basketball games with NFL players and a VIP meet and greet event before the game. Stay tuned for more information as we approach the date! The Personal Finance classes are working diligently on their resumes using the Naviance system. Working in collaboration with the Guidance Department will ensure that all students develop skills necessary to complete a professional resume.

## World Language, ESL and Music Connection: *Ms. Cherico*

In Spanish Level 3, students are releasing their adventurous side by designing an itinerary for a trip abroad to one of the 21 Spanish-speaking countries! Each student is exploring the tripadvisor.es website, completely in Spanish, and must plan hotel accommodations, flight information, excursions, public transportation, and a travel budget in the target language. In the meantime, students are expanding their vacation/travel vocabulary, acquiring cultural knowledge about the products and practices within the country, and applying meaningful life skills in a fun student-centered activity!

In ESL, the students started off the year by creating a comfortable learning environment and getting to know each other with introductory presentations about themselves and their summer traveling experiences. We are looking forward to a fulfilling, successful and exciting new year as we welcome both a Ukranian/Russian speaker and an Arabic/French speaker to JTHS!

## Guidance Connection: *Ms. Widgren*

The High School Counseling Department has begun the school year by gearing up for college application submissions with the Seniors. Mrs. Montegari facilitated a parent workshop in August for parents to learn how to use the Naviance program to streamline the college application process. This past Tuesday, Ms. Staples coordinated a "Meet the College Reps" program where college admissions representatives from FDU, MSU, and CCM discussed the ins and outs of the college admissions process. Coming up on October 18 at 7:00, financial aid expert, Ed Zamora will present valuable financial aid information. All are welcome to attend!

The HS Counseling Department has many upcoming Instant Decision Days and College Visits. Information will be sent home via the Naviance email system and will be posted on Realtime Parent Portal. In addition, the counselors have created Google Classrooms for each grade level where important information will be shared with students. Students are encouraged to stop by the guidance office to get more information.

Congratulations! This past summer many of high school counselors attended the Nation School Counselor Association's (ASCA) national conference in Los Angeles, CA. While at the conference, JTHS along with four other schools in Jefferson Township received the distinction of being certified as a Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP). Way to go!!

## Science Connection: *Mr. Hiben*

Welcome back all science enthusiasts! Around the science department you will find faculty stressing the importance of lab safety and getting their classes ready to explore phenomena. Faculty and students are still getting accustomed to the new rotating block schedule and science labs being pulled from the "academic" period, but this will become second-nature in due time. Overall, feedback from science faculty and students indicate the new schedule is a winner!

Outside of the classroom we have some additional options for students who are passionate about science. Our Waksman Students Scholars Program is running once again this year. The program allows students to learn about genetics and partake in authentic research as they map the genome of Duckweed. Also, Science League (an academic science competition) will run once again with teams in all major areas (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science, Earth Science). Get involved Falcons!

## School Connections PDP (Peer Development Program): *Mr. Flatierre*



The weekend of September 15th, the 2018/2019 PDP leaders had their annual leadership retreat. During the retreat, the PDP leaders attend workshops to prepare them for outreaches to current ninth grade students. These outreaches are held once a month, where PDP leaders meet in small groups with freshmen students to assist in many aspects of the transition to high school. The PDP leaders' responsibilities are to interact, engage, and listen to their freshmen groups.



*Keith Hawkins speaks to PDP leaders*

At this year's retreat, the leaders benefited from multiple speakers, including Mrs. Torkos, Mrs. Vandigriff, Mrs. Schwimer, Mrs. Montegari, Mrs. Kircher, Mr. Feinsinger, Eric Wilsusen, and Keith Hawkins! The speakers were able to provide the PDP leaders with tools that they can bring back to their PDP groups. The leaders are excited for a great year, and are looking forward to the first outreach on October 3rd.

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



## Golden Falcons Marching Band By Student Writer Joshua Dyl

*The Jefferson Township High School Golden Falcon Marching Band has begun its 2018 season. The band has been already performed their show "Dragon," a story about a dragon growing up, at football games, their home competition that took place on September 15, and at their most recent competition in Matawan, where the band scored a 77.90. The band is hoping to increase their score as the next competition comes and hopes to for a very successful season. Keep an eye out for their performances at football games and competitions around North Jersey high schools this fall!*



## Exceptional Connection: Miss Dispenziere



The multiple disabilities program at the high school has gone through a few changes this year. We have a classroom strictly dedicated to practicing life, job, and independent living skills; mimicking an apartment set-up for the students. On the other side of the room, we have language arts and math stations, as well as hands-on approaches to learning about earth science and world history. Another special aspect of the program is the integration of art and music for the students. Our program received generous donations through a project that I created called "Music and Multiple Disabilities" through Donors Choose. We are going to be adding a collection of hand-percussion instruments to our classroom, and are working on inclusive opportunities to use them with the music department as well as adding music activities to the class schedule throughout the day.

