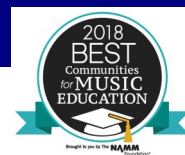




Jefferson Township High School Newsletter

Jefferson Pride



JTHS Happenings:

- Return of Graduates
- 8th Grade Orientation
- AP & Elective Fair
- Debate Tournament
- CCM Instant Decision Day
- Blood Drive
- The Great Kindness Challenge

Business Department Connection: Ms. Villa

Media Center: The Media Center created a Google Data Studio (a graphic linked to a Google Form that live updates) to track book titles and genres read by students and faculty. The graphic is being displayed in the media center. Here is the link: https://datastudio.google.com/open/1e_4B2q4JIFjmgdNKakAjZkLnRP0BxtL

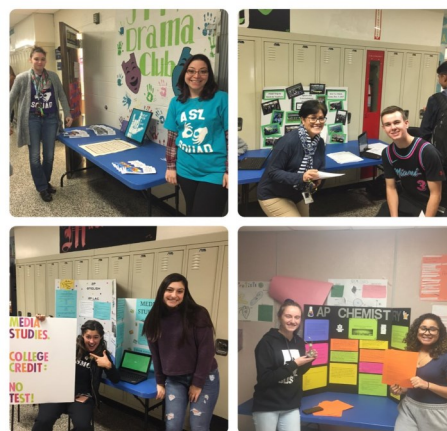
Students are using NoodleTools for research: creating citations, notecards and outlines that export to Google docs.

Business: DECA and FBLA have finished their Regional Competitions. 18 students will represent DECA at the State Competition and 7 students will be representing FBLA. State Competitions are held in March and located in Atlantic City.

Semester courses are wrapping up with the Personal Finance students finishing up their “Map of Life” Budget projects. DECA alumni, Emily Marsh and Barbara DiTomasso came back to talk to the business students about college life and the importance of internships and work ethic when majoring in the field of business. They discussed with students how the business program has helped them to succeed in their respective majors.



Meghan Craig, Aleeza Cabahug & Alysza Sookraj presented at the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Educators.



The AP & Elective Fair held on January 9th.

Athletic Connection: Mr. Koch

January was prime time for most winter sports at JTHS. It started with JTHS Varsity basketball coach Joe DiGenaro being named Staff Member of the Month for December. Coach D will keep the MCT hopes alive this Saturday in the quarterfinals against Mendham. This marks the first quarterfinal birth for boys hoops since 2014. Joe Batelli will get his name on the 1000 Point scorers banner at the end of this season after having accomplished this milestone in a win on the road over Newton.

Bowling has competed strong this year with Emma Theis being the most consistent anchor of the team. At the recent Morris County Tournament Emma came in second for high series rolling a 586, but winning the high game with a 233.



Skiing has had an impressive start to this year as they have waited a long time to finally hit the slopes. Ski racer Kyla Butler (pictured left) took second place at the Mt. Creek USSA Giant Slalom race. After their training trip to Lake Placid, they look to finish strong and make some noise in the upcoming state events. Please give them a follow on twitter @JTHSSkiing.

Junior thrower, Stephanie Nwankwo, was featured by The Daily News in their recent article on track and field.

Indoor track finished up their last meet before sectionals and continue to set new school records. DeVries makes her way onto the record board in the 1600m and Makinde gets on the boys 55m.

Sarah DeVries (pictured right) was honored at the NJSIAA National Girls and Women in Sports day at Seton Hall University on February 3rd.

While Stephanie was being featured in articles, Nicole Cervo and Johnny Knox have both begun writing for Morris Sussex Sports, Nicole reporting wrestling and Johnny reporting basketball.

While swim kept out of the cold and into the pool, they out swam Vernon and many other squads this month. The girl's team qualified for states and won their first round meet with Demarest. They look to keep it up against Leona on Tuesday.

The Falcon's Nest has been huge this whole winter but nothing bigger than the positive group, wearing all navy blue when the DPD came into the Falcons Nest to watch the boys grab a huge double-overtime win over Wallkill Valley.



We're on the web! Visit us at www.jefftwp.org, follow us on Twitter @jthsfalcons & like us on Facebook.

English Connection: Ms. Wnuk

From Mrs. Clarizio: The JTHS Sports and Entertainment Journalism students have been busy this year. In November, students attended a Jets Business Day at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. Students toured the stadium facility, listened to presentations by some of the top executives, learned about possible career opportunities, and had free reign of the field for the last half hour of the day. The field trip included tickets to the Jets vs. Texans game on Saturday, December 15. Our JTHS sports enthusiasts enjoyed watching Gang Green, who had the lead until late in the fourth quarter. Students have been busy researching and writing feature and pre-game stories. The Falcon's Nest Sports and Entertainment Page, now accessible from the JTHS homepage, is loaded with student published articles on local, college, and professional sports.

From Mrs. Vandigriff: Congratulations to the Jefferson Township High School Debate Team for Hosting the North Jersey Debate League on January 11, 2019. The North Jersey Debate League consists of ten high schools that participate in cross-examination debate. Jefferson Township High School hosted the final Tournament of the season earning third place with 5 wins. Mt. Olive earned second place with 6 wins and first place went to Sparta High School with 7 wins. The Championship takes place on February 8, 2019 at West Morris Central and the team is busy preparing their final cases and fine tuning their arguments.

We are especially proud of the Jefferson Township High School Debate Team's Novice Debaters who debated for the first time this season: Julianna Wells, Angelica Calderon, Emily Costigan, Abby Wolfe, Jason Hordyk, Niriksha Jayajumar, Michael Keller and Nicole Lee. Each of these teams earned a win! The North Jersey Debate League season begins in September with a workshop on the Debate topic presented by Dr. Richard Edwards, Professor of Communications at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Hosting a tournament provides an opportunity to demonstrate speaking skills developed through debating to students in the classroom. Teachers open their classroom and host a debate in their classroom. The small details such as the date of one's source or the definition of a word can mean the difference between a win or a loss. Each team spends hours researching their case and preparing their evidence.

The Host Team is responsible for preparing breakfast and the participants truly ate in style with plenty of bagels, muffins, and doughnuts. A special thank you to our debate moms, Mrs. Wolfe and Mrs. Smeilus who prepared and served breakfast to 120 hungry teenagers! Additionally, Student Timekeepers are needed to escort the guest judge to the classroom and ensure that each debater receives the allotted time to make their case. A special thank you to Seniors Lyndsi Cortese and Rachelle Ludder, our team statisticians, who have single handedly run the Tournament Stats for four years! We will miss you!

Team Varsity Captains, Sharon Israel, Muskan Maritoo, and Cierra Harris worked tirelessly to support, and prepare the team. Novice Debate Captains Abby Wolfe and Emily Costigan worked with the Novice Teams to ensure they were prepared for their debates. Best of Luck to our graduating seniors: Sharon Israel and Muskan Maritoo. These young women have been debating all four years and have worked hard not only on their cases, but by helping new debaters. We will miss you terribly! The team wishes to send a special thank you to the teachers, staff, and Administration for their invaluable support. Good Luck at Championships!



Exceptional Connection: *Ms. Fritzky*

Jefferson's Holiday Spirit: Teachers Megan Seader and Joe Mattessich combined their classes to provide a festive holiday gathering. Students enjoyed their time learning about cooking and food safety. Ingredient measuring and mixing to produce a fine array of food samplings was the order of the day for these students. All the students involved also became proper host and hostess to ensure all visitors became comfortable when visiting. The students also decorated the room, tables and the outside hallway to satisfy anyone's holiday spirit. The holiday creativity displayed pleased all the senses with a lasting memory of holiday cheer. Many students and teachers had the opportunity to visit throughout the day and they absolutely enjoyed their time being a part of Jefferson's Holiday Spirit.



Guidance Connection: *Mrs. Torkos*

Happy New Year! The JTHS Counseling Department started the year off with a bang by wrapping up our sophomore small group meetings. These meetings consisted of the importance of career exploration for long and short term goals. Using the Naviance tool as a resource to explore career clusters allows the students to think about their elective options for scheduling purposes so that they can explore classes in their field of interest.

After wrapping up our sophomore meetings we moved forward with our small group junior meetings to review PSAT score reports. This gave counselors the opportunity to have juniors link their PSAT scores from CollegeBoard to Kahn Academy. Kahn Academy is a valuable free resource for SAT prep due to tailoring the SAT practice test to the student's areas of weakness. During these small group meetings, counselors reviewed AP Potential and provided students with multiple SAT/ACT prep resources along with upcoming SAT & ACT test dates. This information can also be found on the individual counselor's Google Classroom.

Mark your calendars for our Junior College Planning Night which will take place on Wednesday, March 6th at 6:30 pm. More information along with invitations to follow.

The scheduling process begins! Counselors have created a "Counselor Corner" in the cafeterias, during the lunch/academic sessions so that students can ask questions about their course selections for next year. We will be meeting students individually starting in February to review the course selections and to make any necessary changes at that time. The Program of Studies and course selections sheets were handed out in homerooms during advisory on Thursday, January 10th and the parent portal was open from January 14th-January 25th for students to input course selections. When a student is deciding on electives they should keep in mind possible career interests and explore classes in those areas so that he/she has the opportunity to explore career interests prior to moving forward with postsecondary plans.

This year the Jefferson Township School District will be participating in the Great Kindness Challenge during the week of January 28th-February 4th. This is a nationwide bullying prevention program. The high school will have kindness activities for students to participate in throughout the week. Kindness matters, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted" ~ Aesop's Fables.

Attendance Matters: Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school year, or about 18 days in total, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.



Jefferson Wrestling Makes a Quick Recovery Against Sparta After Falling to Emerson Boro

By: Nicole Cuervo

The Jefferson Township Falcons wrestling team only had about an hour to spare last Saturday morning before quickly recovering from a nine-point loss to Emerson Boro. On January 5th, JTHS hosted their first and only tri-match of the season at 9am, inviting a distant opponent along with their close-town rival, Sparta Township. The Falcons woke up on the wrong side of the mat, clearly noticed after winning just six bouts against Emerson, five of which were mostly first-period pins, however. The final outcome of their first matchup was 42-33. The Falcons though, were determined to sharpen their claws for round two.

Beginning with heavy-weight, Jefferson failed at gaining the head start as Sparta snatched 6 points from Joey Liotta against Zach Stager within the first minute of the match. Jefferson's vital Freshmen, Thomas Verrone, however, efficiently tied the scoreboard with a remarkable 21-second pin against Sophomore, Julian Couto (106 lbs).

Despite the now even score, the Falcon's head coach, Matthew Moscatello, understood the triple threat about to enter his gymnasium, ironically all in back-to-back-to-back weight classes. The three Stewart brothers, Garrett, Cooper, and Spencer, are considered large catalysts for the Sparta Spartans



blatantly clear in their 143 combined career wins. Sophomore, Cooper, was first to show off their family name at Jefferson when pinning Blake Bartholomew at 5:18. Brothers must wrestle alike just as much as they look alike being that Sophomore, Spencer, and Junior, Garrett both snatched major decision-wins against Jefferson Sophomores, Luke Ciampa and Austin Jack. The Stewart boys dominated the board, now giving the Spartans a 14-point lead, 20-6. Spartan Senior, Chris Hwang battled a tough fight to Senior captain, Ryan Tripodi. Nick gained the first takedown within the 138 bout, however, Tripodi claimed victory after keeping a strong hold to Hwang before he had the chance to escape. Tripodi walked off the mat, winning 5-4.

The most game changing bout of the morning was clearly in the hands of JTHS Senior, Robert Ferucci. The Falcons were trailing behind just two points (18-20) right before Ferucci slammed his opponent's shoulders flat to the mat. At 160 pounds, Ferucci wasted no time taking down Sophomore, James Bates, in the first ten seconds after the whistle was blown. With a 1:21 pin, Ferucci finally gave the Falcons the lead for the first time. It was smooth sailing in the air for the mighty Falcons as they closed the last three matches with a tech fall from Michael Gould (170 lbs), forfeit for Justin Randzio (182 lbs) and an icing-on-the-cake-pin for Freshman, Dyland Patscher (220 lbs). The final team score of the match ended as 47-20.

After interviewing Ferucci regarding his significant matchup against Bates, that ultimately decided his team's win, he had nothing but a determined answer. Ferucci elaborated by stating, "This was a big match for me and as a team. We're cross-town rivals with Sparta and I knew what I had to do to get the job done and give us the lead." Tripodi also confidently discussed, "I think we should have a good showing against Hackettstown." And just as Jefferson's captain predicted, the Falcons kept the ball rolling as they demolished Hackettstown on the road, 60-18 on Tuesday, January 8th. The JTHS wrestling program continues to take high flights with a record of 9-3.