



Jefferson Township High School Newsletter

Jefferson Pride



Jefferson Township High School Placed on the College Board's 10th Annual AP® District Honor Roll for Significant Gains in Student Access and Success

"I would like to congratulate our students, teaching staff, and administration on an incredible accomplishment. The teachers do a terrific job of preparing our students for success in school and in life. The students do their part in preparing throughout the school year for academic success. The ability to foster student achievement at the highest levels is what being an AP student is all about. I am so proud to work with this top notch team of educators and I look forward to the continued success of our student body!" (Timothy Plotts, Principal)

National data from 2019 show that among American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half are participating. The first step to getting more of these students to participate is to give them access. Courses must be made available, gatekeeping must stop, and doors must be opened equitably. Jefferson Township High School is committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

"With more students participating and succeeding in AP in this district, more students are getting a head start on college by earning college credit during high school," said Trevor Packer, senior vice president of AP and Instruction at the College Board. "We are pleased to honor the teachers and administrators who have worked to clear a path for more students of all backgrounds to advance through AP."

Helping more students learn at a higher level *and* earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP teachers to district and school administrators to college professors. Many districts are experimenting with initiatives and strategies to see how they can expand access and improve student performance at the same time.

In 2019, more than 4,000 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement, or both, and/or consideration in the admissions process. Inclusion in the 10th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on a review of three years of AP data, from 2017 to 2019, looking across 38 AP Exams, including world language and culture.

For inclusion on the 10th Annual AP District Honor Roll, districts must meet the following criteria:

- Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4% in large districts, at least 6% in medium districts, and at least 11% in small districts;
- Increase or maintain the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students taking exams and increase or maintain the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students scoring 3+ on at least one AP Exam; and
- Improve or maintain performance levels when comparing the 2019 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2017 percentage, *unless* the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70% of its AP students earn a 3 or higher.

When these outcomes have been achieved among an AP student population in which 30% or more are underrepresented minority students (American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander) and/or 30% or more are low-income students (students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch), a symbol has been affixed to the district name to highlight this work.

The complete 10th Annual AP District Honor Roll can be found **here**: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/awards/district-honor-roll>

Business Connection: Ms. Villa

FBLA completed another successful toy drive initiative. With the help of the town's elementary schools, FBLA students were able to collect over 100 toys and while bearing the cold weather collected \$575 for gift cards. All toys and gift cards were given to the Jr. Women's Club in support of their town-wide toy drive. Put another well-done job in the books. Personal Finance classes have been learning about the time value of money and playing the Next Gen Personal Finance Investment Simulation (STAX). Students are learning how to build a diversified investment portfolio by investing in a combination of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, bank certificates of deposit, precious metals, and real estate.



FBLA Toy Drive

English Connection: Ms. Wnuk

On November 14, students from the Sports and Entertainment Journalism, Advanced Sports and Entertainment Journalism, Sports in American Culture, and Sports Marketing electives at JTHS attended a Jets Business Day at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Students toured the facility as Jets executives gave presentations about the various departments and positions required to run the "behind-the-scenes" business of professional football. Highlights included a stop in the Jets locker room and a thirty minute romp around the pro football field. Included in the field trip package was a ticket to the Jets v. Dolphins game on December 8. Students, parents, and teachers met in the stadium parking lot for a tailgating experience followed by the game which ended in a tight finish. The Jets defeated the Dolphins 22-21 after a pass interference penalty review which allowed Sam Flicker to kick a 44-yard field goal for the Jets in the final play of the game. J E T S! Jets! Jets! Jets!

Science Connection: Mr. Hiben



Chemistry students began the month with a bang as they watched the phenomenon of pure sodium interacting with water. This played into a larger unit on reactions and periodic table trends, and sure did catch everyone's attention! In Earth Science, students were able to use the Star Lab, our portable planetarium! Biology classes are putting on their engineer hats and studying photosynthesis by designing greenhouses (on Mars!) or even creating plans to terraform entire planets! In Physics, students are immersed in the study of Newton's Laws--watch out for falling apples. Lastly, our Academy for Environmental Science students are working on their "tiny house" designs and presenting them to the class. The houses focus on sustainability, energy efficiency and cost effectiveness. Job well done!

Media Center Connection: Ms. Villa

Students have been using the jewelry supplies and the 3D printers in the makerspace to create holiday gifts. Mrs. Aluotto taught students about our research databases which are now being used heavily. Mrs. Aluotto has begun bringing a cart of books to classrooms that are allowing choice book selections as well as requesting titles from the public library when needed. Volunteers continue to do amazing things from shelving, labeling, and rearranging books, creating makerspace project prototypes, and building beautiful holiday displays. Additional makerspace supplies are being researched for purchase very soon including robotics and exciting craft tools.



Social Studies Connection: Mr. Papa

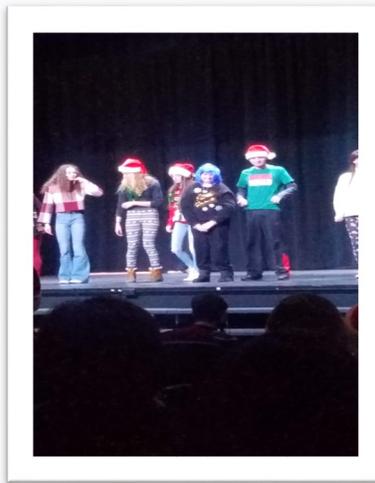
Kasey Farris and Jon Boyle attended the New Jersey Council for History Education conference held at Princeton University on December 6th. During the conference they listened to a lecture from Columbia University Professor Eric Foner who discussed How the Civil War and Reconstruction remade the US Constitution. Additionally, they experienced a conversation with General (Ret.) David H. Petraeus as he was interviewed by a military historian, Jennifer Keene.



General (Ret.) David Petraeus

Exceptional Connection: Ms. Fritzky

Ms. Dispenziere and Ms. Schwimer organized a Holiday Lip Sync Battle with their students. The battle took place on December 19th in the High School Auditorium where Jefferson hosted participants from other schools including Kittatinny, Mount Olive, Newton, Randolph, and Kinnelon. After the performances, students gathered in the high school cafeteria for lunch and certificates were awarded to all participants. Everyone had a wonderful time performing together and cheering on their friends.



Athletics Connection: Mr. Koch

Athletes from the class of 2020 participated in the National Letter of Intent Signing Day this fall. We congratulate Kayla Barbosa (Wagner), Madison Eisele (Manhattan), and Kiera Sparks (New Haven) for their dedication to Jefferson Twp. High School and continuing their academic and athletic careers at the next level. Be on the lookout for our Alumni Watch in the years to come.

Bowler Emma Thies competed in the first annual NJAC Tournament and won Girls High Game with a score of 204. Thies also took home gold in the North Jersey Singles Championships with a 619 series. Congratulations Emma.

Swimming has already been heating up in the pool with 14 swimmers already qualifying for championships. The girl's team is 2-0 while the boy's sit at 1-1. Be sure to check out their schedule online and get to KRHS for a meet. Give them a follow on Twitter @jths_swim_

Ice Hockey continues to work hard and has been playing tough. Check out their schedule for Ice at Skylands.

The winter season opens up with the following home events.

Wrestling 12/19 vs Hasbrouck Heights
Boys Basketball 12/20 vs Hackettstown
Girls Basketball 1/3 vs Lenape Valley

Be sure to get out on the road and support our athletes in Swimming, Ice Hockey, Bowling and Skiing.



Kayla Barbosa



Madison Eisele



Kyra Sparks



Thanks to everyone who organized and participated in the [#HourOfCode](#). Special thanks to Ms. Casey, Ms. Aluotto & [@MsMannerberg](#)! What an awesome night for our students & community! [#falconpride](#)

JTHS students had an awesome time at the [@RamapoCollegeNJ](#) college visit!



JTHS Happenings

January:

- 16 Pasta & A Program
- 20 Martin Luther King Day: No School
- 22 8th Grade Orientation: Auditorium, 6:30 pm
- 31 Red Cross Blood Drive

