

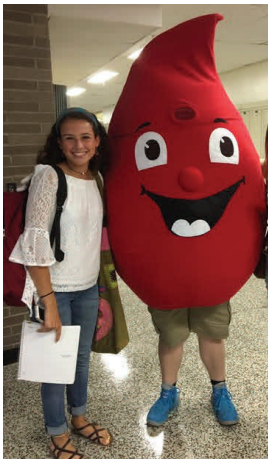


Jefferson Township High School Newsletter

Jefferson Pride

JTHS Happenings:

- First Day of School
- Back To School Night
- Student activities Fair
- Marching Band Competition
- ALICE Community Forum
- Blood Drive
- Mini College Fair
- Fall Pep Rally



Ashley Struck poses with Buddy the blood drop. The Red Cross Club collected 36 pints of blood. 108 local patients will benefit from the results of the drive.

Dear Falcon Community,

The 2017-2018 school year is upon us. Due to the efforts of many including maintenance, custodial, secretarial, teaching, technology, administration, and many others we had a very successful opening to the school year. The attendance at Back-To-School Night increased for the second year in a row. The planning and preparation by our outstanding teaching staff was evident by all in attendance. As part of the Back-To-School Night experience at JTHS, we held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly refurbished auditorium. I would like to thank the Board of Education for financing and believing in the auditorium project. I invite anyone who would like a tour to come to the high school to enjoy in the new auditorium experience.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

This summer JTHS was fortunate to have students be able to continue their education through various programs like the Waksman Scholars Program at Rutgers University. Students, Brittney Ajaj and Varsha Murthy, were able to spend a week in Piscataway while researching and developing ideas about the DNA of duckweed. Under the direction of their science teacher, Mr. Gino Rose, the students were able to work with other like-minded students as they completed their research. The administration was fortunate enough to be present when the students presented and shared their findings. Ryan Schmidt also continued his education this summer at Fairleigh Dickinson University in a 2-week leadership program. The program focused on honing those skills that will be useful in terms of leadership at the next level.

JTHS is fostering innovation and exploration. This school year JTHS is building its first Makerspace in the media center. Knowing that Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts, and Math are the future, JTHS is focused on providing resources that our students can use to be successful now and in the future. Fostering the global perspective to innovation, we look forward to seeing what our students of the future will be able to develop.

On behalf of JTHS I wish you all a terrific 2017-2018 school year.

Tim Plotts, Ed. D.

World Language, ESL and Music Connection

Spanish 2CP students are almost done with their initial review. As a summative project, the students will be creating an alter ego. The alter ego will be either a superhero or a villain. They should prove to be very creative. Spanish 1CP students are working on a project about Spanish Speaking countries. This project is appropriately timed to help celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Spanish 5CP students are working on a unit titled Life and Feelings. They will be discussing the things that make human beings fight for survival despite the uncertainties and circumstances of life. The fledgling Spanish Club had its first meeting and is hoping to make a positive impact on the JTHS community. Students in French II Honors, French IV Honors, and French AP classes started the year by reading a current event article in French. Then each student selected his or her own article to read and to present to the class. To prepare for this, students have reviewed and practiced different ways to ask questions in French and how to use the correct verb conjugations and tenses in their presentations and questions. As a result, they are using the language as well as learning a lot about Francophone cultures.



Congratulations to the JTHS Marching Band for their first place finish at the Metuchen Marching Band Competition.

Fine and Studio Art, Related Arts & Social Studies

In Social Studies Our new elective course, Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights has been approved as a concurrent college course through Kean University, providing our students the opportunity to earn three college credits. In Technology Education & Art New equipment and resources such as a CNC Router, drawing tablets, robots, and cameras, have been purchased for our courses to enhance our students learning experiences. Over the summer, an alumni of JTHS donated 20 solar panels to the Tech Ed department to be used in our Engineering and Robotics courses.—*Mr. Papa*

Athletics Connection

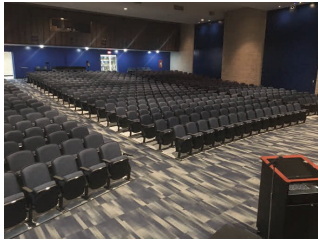


Cross Country Winners Sarah DeVries, Emily Szalai, & Leah Hannon

Our athletic programs are off to a great start with every program experiencing team and/or individual success. Our Football team just won their home opener against Mendham by a score of 38-19 to improve their record to 2-1. It was an exciting evening with our recreation football players invited to attend to see many of their player coaches play in the game. Both soccer programs are well over the .500 mark and both programs won their first round Morris County Tournament games to move on to the second round. Cross Country is in the middle of their dual meet season and the girls' team is on a roll led by some very talented underclassmen. In fact, they just recently placed third in a competitive invitational last week. Girls' Volleyball under the direction of first year Head Coach Sara Voorhees (a former Falcon herself) is also experiencing a great season to date. And our Field Hockey program under new Head Coach Kasey Farris is currently undefeated heading into a tough week. Lastly, our Cheerleading squad is as strong as ever and they continually work hard to bring spirit to our sidelines.—*Mr. DiColo*



School Connections: A New Arena by Student Writer Joshua Dyl



“It has that new car scent,” Dr. Plotts said in an interview regarding the renovated auditorium in the high school. The auditorium in the high school went through a near \$700,000 renaissance this previous summer, and it is ready to be utilized to its full potential this new school year. The brand new seats are ready to house the audience for our school plays, band concerts, award ceremonies, and other school functions. The clean carpeting welcomes you throughout the auditorium, allowing for a more homelike atmosphere. The bright lights make it possible for better visibility both on and off the stage. To add for a more comfortable visit, an air conditioning unit has been installed for the hot summer evening events. The new auditorium seats 630 visitors. There have been bigger handicapped seats installed to “be able to involve the handicapped disabled and to sit with your loved ones who do not have the ability to sit down in the front,” Dr. Plotts said. New equipment includes three new microphone digital snake jacks, which can be plugged into computers without needing to move from your desired location on auditorium or stage floor. “This a state-of-the-art console.” Dr. Plotts expressed. The auditorium is also going to be rented out to increase revenue. Also, seats are now being sponsored by families and individuals of the Jefferson community. Dr. Plotts has a goal for this auditorium, and that is to invite all of the students of Jefferson to attend more school functions and events that take place in the auditorium. Dr. Plotts announced, “I want the students to feel like they are in the most beautiful place.” The stage is set for the students to make their mark, and it can all be done in the new and welcoming auditorium of the Jefferson Township High School. The new arena is set for all, all you need to do is take your seat.

Language Arts & Media Curriculum Connections

Academy English 10 Honors students have been working on their first synthesis paper; they have constructed compelling claims about the role of nature in literature and are using multiple texts to support their claims. English 10 Honors and CP students have begun their dramatic reading of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. To prepare for the reading all students researched a related topic and presented to the class. This year is off to a great start, and we can't wait to see what other great work the sophomore's produce! - *Ms. Wnuk*

Exceptional Connection

Mrs. VanderBok's class recently washed all of the lost and found clothes and donated them to the New Hope Thrift Store at the Milton United Methodist Church. In Mrs. Mason's World History students are studying The Renaissance period. Students will analyze documents, art, film, and biographies. Mrs. Ciaraffo's Algebra 1 students are learning to solve one and two step equations, and how this skill relates to real world examples that they will experience in a variety of career fields. In Math of Finance students are discussing Gross pay, how overtime is calculated, and why they should keep track of the hours they work. In Ms. Kolodny's Career Exploration/ Career and Consumer Awareness students are learning about the components of teamwork, and how these skills are essential to success in the real world. Meanwhile, seniors in the Transition Education classes are researching different career clusters, and what each group of occupations has to offer. The 18-21 year old program is off strong with their morning outings which the students love to attend. Thus far, they have participated in yoga and cleaning rooms at the Hilton on Mondays, Tuesdays they workout at Black Bear Fitness on Rt. 15, Wednesdays they prepare a load of laundry and head off to the laundromat, Thursdays they go shopping at the Shoprite in Wharton and make sure to check out the weekly deals, and lastly on Fridays they prepare a meal at the DPD.

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Student Success: Ian McAndrew

By: Amanda Ventre

Ian McAndrew is a current sophomore at JTHS and is showing a strong dedication to his community through the completion of his Eagle Scout Project. His project took place on the campus of Jefferson Township High School and was to complete a garden near the courtyard of the senior patio. This project began in March and was completed this August.

Meant for relaxation of staff and students, this garden will last all four seasons. McAndrew made sure that this garden featured a variety of plants including those ones which change color at a certain times throughout the year. The garden also includes evergreens and a bluestone/mulch pathway that leads to an area with benches. McAndrew believes that the most important feature of the garden is "the red maple and birdbath centerpiece." The completion of this project was not simple; in addition to installing the garden McAndrew also weeded and mulched what was already present. In total 170.5 hours were spent on this project.

When prompted on the completion of this project, McAndrew humbly stated that it would not have been possible without the help of some individuals. He stated that he wanted to thank his construction team which included: John Mahoney, Logan Good, Brenden Smyth, Brenden Burger, Chris Dunn, Nick Smelius, and Thomas Bubniak from Jefferson as well as Chris and Tom Scheri from Sparta. He stated that multiple parents helped as well along his journey. Mr. Faber, Mr. Stevens, Mr. Wilsusen, Mr. Osbun, the grounds department, and the high school maintenance and custodial staff were a huge help also.

McAndrew advanced to thanking businesses who donated materials for his project. These included: Curly Stone, Kirk Allen Trucking, Deering's Garden Supply, Dover Home Depot, Roxbury Home Depot, Lake Hopatcong True Value, and Cerbos Garden Supply. To conclude his thanks he stated that he wished to give "a big thank you to Dr. Plotts for working with me to plan and construct this project at the high school."



Sophomore Ian McAndrew stands in the garden he created for his Eagle Project



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Science Connections

In all disciplines students have reviewed proper lab practice and procedures, since safety is our first priority. Already you can find students trying to explain phenomena and experimenting in various ways. Of special note, two new additions to our science program are up and running: Forensic Science CP and the Biotechnology Research Club. Mr. Feinsinger is working with 48 seniors as they learn about crime scenes, types of evidence and the like. Go CSI Jefferson! Meanwhile, Mr. Rose is helping 14 young men and women learn about DNA sequencing and its associated techniques. They are conducting authentic research in partnership with the Rutgers University "Waksman Student Scholar Program". If all goes well, we will have some of our very own JTHS students published in an international database. Exciting times!



Wakesman Students Brittany Ajaj and Varsha Murthy with Mr. Rose at Rutgers University.