



Jefferson Township High School Newsletter

Jefferson Pride



Science Connection: Mr. Hiben

Jefferson Township High School
 1010 Weldon Road
 Oak Ridge, New Jersey 07438
 Phone: 973-697-3535
 Fax: 973-208-8409

Around the high school, science classes are immersing students in experimentation and plenty of writing. Parents, yes you read that correctly, writing. In all disciplines, a premium is placed on writing claims and then using evidence and reasoning to justify them. This is a departmental focus from grades K-12 and it seeks to create an articulate and scientifically literate populace. The changes we see in our students' abilities as the year progresses are quite promising.

Another change that your children may have mentioned, is the use of "phenomena". A phenomenon is something that happened in the natural world, that is observable, and explainable. Science faculty are updating their lessons to center around these events, with the goal of teaching students the content and skills needed to solve them. Much like our focus on reading and writing, the use of phenomena seeks to create citizens who are curious and who can explore and explain what they observe. Very exciting!

JTHS Happenings:

- College Fair
- Broadway Cabaret
- Tri-M Inductions
- NJEA Convention
- Class of 2020 Tricky Tray
- Fall Drama
- NHS Inductions

So proud of [@elevatejths](https://twitter.com/elevatejths) for representing JTHS at the N.J. School Boards Association Convention! Great job, everyone! [#falconpride](https://twitter.com/falconpride)



Wall of Champions



Math Connection: Ms. Kasa

We are very happy to welcome our new Mathematics Supervisor, Ms. Laura Kasa

Hello Jefferson! I am Laura Kasa, the new Mathematics Supervisor. I wanted to take this opportunity for everyone to get to know a little bit about me. I am married and have three amazing children, Ryan, Ryleigh and Reagan. I have taught math at the high school level for 12 years, teaching everything from Pre-Algebra to Calculus. In addition to teaching, I coached field hockey for 10 years and was a Student Council advisor. I graduated with my Master's Degree in Education from Fairleigh Dickinson in 2008 and then recently graduated from Ramapo College with my second Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. I am very excited to become part of the Falcon family! If you see me around, please stop and introduce yourselves!

Special Education Connection: Ms. Fritzky

This month our 18-21 students helped our local church (Milton United Methodist Church) to assist in setting up the food pantry. Two students were able to set the whole thing up! We were happy to see them gaining work experience while giving back to their community!

The High School RISE program has been having an amazing year with Jefferson Java! This year, the students were asked to sell apple cider and donuts at Student Council's Fall Fest. Our students had a great time! Earlier in the year, the students collected donations for Eleventh Hour Rescue in Rockaway. Those who donated were given a free beverage voucher. The next charitable organization we are working with is the New Hope Food Pantry. We thank everyone in the high school community for their continued support of our program.



Milton United Methodist Church Food Pantry

English Connection: Ms. Wnuk

In Mrs. Gutwerk's English 10 classes, students participated in a book tasting and were given the choice of one of five contemporary high interest novels to examine. Students will be honing their analyzing skills while reading their book of choice. After completion of the book, students will participate in Socratic book talks with their peers who chose the same book. It's exciting to see a high level of academic discourse and student's reigniting a love of reading.

Media Studies began their 5 Minutes with Media Studies Skype conversations in September and October. They have discussed news bias with JTHS Graduate Meaghan Cuddy, now of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, learned about what it is like to work as a journalist and as an editor with Michael Izzo of the West Essex Tribune, and explored how social media has an impact on human health with physician and TED Educator Dr. Melvin Sanicas.

NHS Connection: Mrs. Kula



Some of our dedicated NHS members participated in the Hunger Walk 5K in Morristown! They raised funds and awareness for the Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center of Morristown. Way to battle it out in the rain! [#giveback](#) [#falconpride](#)

Music Connection: Mr. Sica



On October 17th Sussex County Honor Choir & Band auditions were held at Kittatinny Regional High School. 10 students competed against the best choir students from all of the other high schools in Sussex County and 7 were accepted, so this is a tremendous honor. Jefferson Township High School was represented very strongly and I am incredibly proud of everyone that auditioned. Please join me in congratulating the following high school choir students who auditioned and were accepted into the Sussex County Honor Choir.

SCMEA Honor Choir: Alexandra DuHaime, Andrew Cooper, Nino DeNino, Gabriella LaMonica, Kaitlyn Majury, Lily Snow, and Sean Majury.

We had 15 students from the JTHS instrumental music program audition for the Sussex County Honor Band on October 17th. Eight of our students were accepted. This years honors band was intentionally a very small group due to the pieces that were chosen for the concert, so auditions were highly competitive as a result. We had 4 students who missed the cutoff by only one or two points, which in previous years would have qualified them. The students who were accepted will attend three rehearsals through November and a concert on November 14th at Kittatinny Regional High School.

SCMEA Honor Band: Madison Wong - flute, Alivia Catania - bass clarinet, Lindsay Dunn - tenor saxophone, Christopher Dunn - trombone, Sophie Quail - trumpet, Kaleb Williams - euphonium, Patrick Flynn - percussion, Michael DaLessio - percussion.

Health Connection: Mr. Koch

Aaron Alonso , Class of 2006, spoke about overcoming obstacles to our senior Health classes. He shared his personal challenges with addictions, loss and life changing events. He had a .0004% chance of surviving his injuries and owes his life to his fellow marines who acted quickly in the Golden Hour. The Golden Hour is the most crucial hour to survive any injuries for a marine. They ended up getting him on the plane after 59 minutes of extreme first aid/lifesaving techniques. He is a Purple Heart recipient and does not regret anything that happened to him. His motto is Be Accountable. You have the ability to change and overcome anything you are faced with in life.



Aaron Alonso

Guidance Connection: Mrs. Widgren

The JTHS Counseling Department is in full swing with our seniors assisting them with their post-secondary plans. Counselors are wrapping up their individual senior meetings to provide the resources needed to assist students with reaching their personal post-secondary goals.

Snacks and Apps are back! Snacks and Apps will run for two weeks between October 21st-November 1st. We invite all seniors that need assistance with their college applications to join us in the Counseling Center Conference Room to work on their applications during their lunch/academic periods. There will be counselors available to assist students through the application process.

On October 1st the Counseling Department hosted “Meet the Reps”. We had admission representatives from Rutgers, Montclair State University, Fairleigh Dickinson, and County College of Morris. This presentation gives students and parents the opportunity to meet with a diverse group of college representatives to learn about the college application process and their specific programs.

Throughout the month of October the Counseling Department has hosted several college visits. To date, we have had visits from from Lincoln Technical Institute, University of Massachusetts (Boston), The College of New Jersey, Caldwell University, Marist, SCAD, Kutztown University, Sacred Heart University, East Stroudsburg University, and West Virginia University. We will have more college visits in November as well. This is an opportunity for students to meet with college reps in small groups, ask questions, and learn more about the institutions and their programs.

On October 22nd, the Counseling Department hosted the second JTHS College Fair for the year. JTHS sponsors three mini-college fairs during the school day for students. The spring mini-college fair is scheduled for March 5th.

Our Financial Aid Information Session was held on October 17th with speaker Ed Zamora. Mr. Zamora has over 20+ years of financial aid experience and receives positive feedback at each presentation. Be on the lookout for a future Financial Aid Information Session which will be held in the spring!

A note on Attendance: ATTENDANCE MATTERS!! Please review the student handbook for the JTHS attendance policy. School refusal can be debilitating and can lead to long-term negative consequences for students. Early identification and effective intervention can help increase a student’s adaptive coping.



Snacks and Apps



College Fair

Media Center Connection: Ms. Villa

The Makerspace is getting a lot of use. During academic/lunch, students are filming green screen videos, 3D printing, coding, building electrical circuits, training robots, doing paper crafts, making jewelry, and more. Teachers are also feeling the makerspace love while conducting their classes in this great collaboration space.



Makerspace

The Dunkin' gift card raffle is contributing to an increase in book checkouts. Students have the chance to win a Dunkin' gift card every month by checking out books and reviewing books.

Ms. Wildermuth's students are working hard applying genre labels to the Media Center books. Student volunteers Michael Keller and Emily McMahon are also making fantastic contributions to the Media Center.

Business Connection: Ms. Villa

DECA Leaders attended the Chapter Officer Leadership Training at Kean University. Students attended workshops to enhance their leadership skills, competition strategies and networked with students and advisers from all over the State of New Jersey. The Marketing 2 class will be participating in a consumer experience activity in preparation for their guest speaker from the DeLonghi Group. Students will learn about the overall consumer experience as it relates to pre/post sale activities including marketing (eCRM) and all consumer contacts. DECA and FBLA students are in the process of selecting and studying for their regional business competitions which start the first week of December.

Personal Finance students are delving into the world of banking and learning how to manage a checking account to understand cash flow. Pathways to Business classes are learning about business structures and researching local franchises to help them to begin thinking about their futures and the roles they will play in the business world.



DECA food drive begins



DECA students at Kean University

The fall drama "The Bold, the Young, and the Murdered" will be performed Friday, November 22 & Saturday, November 23 at 7pm. See any cast or crew member for tix. \$8 in advance \$10 at the door. #falconpride

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS

**The Bold, the Young
and the
Murdered**

CRIME SCENE - DO NOT ENTER

A MURDER MYSTERY COMEDY BY
DON ZOLIDIS

**Friday, November 22
and
Saturday, November 23
7:00 PM**

- TICKETS -
\$8.00 IN ADVANCE
\$10.00 AT THE DOOR

