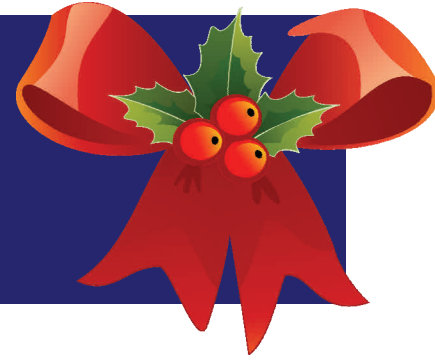




Jefferson Township High School Newsletter

Jefferson Pride Holiday Edition!



JTHS Happenings:

- Tricky Tray
- Trivia Night
- Band Concert
- Old English Feast
- Service Night
- Chorus Concert
- Holiday Assembly



*31st Annual Olde English
Feast*

8th Annual
AP[®] District
Honor Roll
Recipient

CollegeBoard AP[®]

Jefferson Township High School is one of 447 school districts in the U.S. and Canada that is a leader making access to, and success in AP courses a priority.

Progressive Innovation Drives JTHS

One-to-One Laptop Initiative

We have come to that time in the year when it starts to get colder outside. Although the outside temperatures may be dropping things are really heating up at JTHS. Starting January 2nd, 2018 every student in grades 8 and 9 will be receiving Thinkpad Laptops as part of our One-to-One Laptop initiative. As we strive to make our students more globally competitive and advanced in a 21st century environment, having laptops at school and also being allowed to take the laptops home will only improve communication and student achievement as we continue to use and foster the Google Classroom. After student laptops for grades 8 and 9 are rolled out, a schedule will be provided for the roll-out time frame for additional high school grades.

Maker Space Innovation Lab Program

JTHS is continuing on the theme of fostering innovation and creativity in our student learners with the addition of a Makerspace program that will be set up in our media center. What is a Makerspace? Makerspaces, sometimes also referred to as Hackerspaces, and fablabs are creative do-it-yourself spaces where people can gather to create, invent, and learn. In our Makerspace we envision students being able to share interests, ideas, equipment, technology, and computing. The JTHS Makerspace will have things like a Makerbot 3d printer, electronics, hardware, tools, supplies, and more. We are looking to launch the Makerspace in the media center tentatively for the end of January and or beginning of February. We are looking to raise \$10,000 to successfully launch our Maker space. If you or your organization would like to donate to this initiative, please contact Nancy Tasker in the high school main office at 973-697-3535.

New Master Schedule

Jefferson Township High School has approved a new master schedule for the 2018-2019 School Year. With the creation of a Master Scheduling Committee at the start of the 2016-2017 school year, the committee was charged with the task of investigating the needs of a new high school master schedule, exploring schedule options like block scheduling, and making data-driven recommendations for a new master schedule. After a year plus of working on this charge, a 4-day rotating block schedule has been approved. This change will improve student achievement in all areas by fostering student led instruction based on engaged learning that is derived by embracing longer class periods. As an educator, I feel that by going from a traditional schedule with 8- 42 minute periods each day, to a 4-day rotating block schedule with 7- 53 minute periods extends the teachable moment and fosters better student engaged learning. More information will be provided as we go forward with this incredible opportunity for the students at Jefferson Township High School.

Wishing you all the best during the holiday season,

Tim Plotts, Ed. D.
Principal
Jefferson Township High School



Language Arts & Media Curriculum Connections: *Mrs. Schwimer*

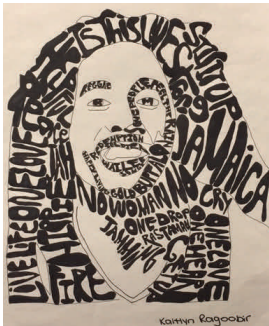
Mrs. Schwimer's Fundamentals of Communication's class has been busy researching potential careers that the students are interested in pursuing. They discovered that having good communication skills is important in any career. In Advanced Communications, the students presented a "speech" using only facial expressions, gestures, and a visual aid. They learned that non-verbal communication can be extremely powerful. It is amazing to see how creative Jefferson Township's students are. We are looking forward to our annual Award's Ceremony coming up next marking period.

Science Connections: *Mr. Hiben*

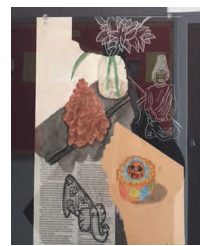
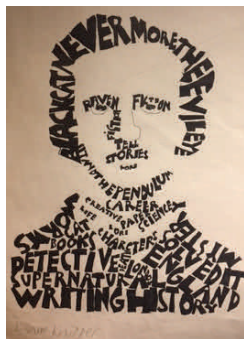
Chemistry students began the month with a bang as they watched the phenomenon of pure sodium interacting with water. This played into a larger unit on reactions and periodic table trends, and sure did catch everyone's attention! In Earth Science, students are finishing Meteorology and moving on to Astronomy, which is exciting because that means it is time to pull out 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 finishing up their "tiny house" designs and presenting them to the class. The houses focus on sustainability, energy efficiency and cost effectiveness. Job well done!

Fine and Studio Art, Related Arts & Social Studies : *Mr. Papa*

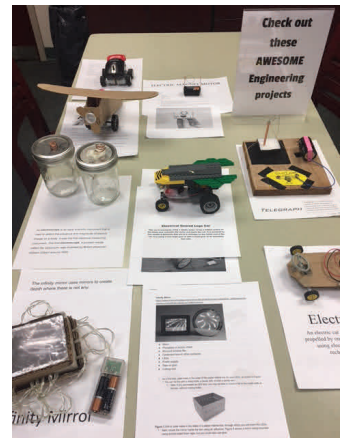
Social Studies: The students in Rho Kappa created a video to raise awareness of human trafficking in Kenya. Please check out operationsafehome.blog.



The students in Mr. DeVries' Art & Design created these incredible Micrography projects.



The students in Mrs. Simler's Drawing & Painting created these amazing pieces of art.



Under the direction of Mr. Januszkeski the Engineering students created these amazing projects.

Athletics Connection: *Mr. Dicolo*



JTHS Bowling Team

We have already begun competitions for several winter sports such as Ice Hockey and Bowling and very shortly before the holidays every sport will be engaged in their regular season contests. We are anticipating an exciting and competitive year for all our teams and encourage students, faculty and the community to come out and support our teams.



John Dicolo Has been at Jefferson Township High School For 18 years. He is retiring and we would like to wish him the best in his future endeavors, and much health and happiness. He will be missed. We also would like to welcome Mr. Koch as the new athletic director.

In addition, congratulations to senior Katie DeBell who will represent Jefferson Twp. High School at the New Jersey Celebrates National Girls and Women In Sports Day at Seton Hall University.

Business Department Connection: *Ms. Villa*

Business: The Future Business Leaders of America wrapped up another successful Toy Drive in support of the Jr. Women's Club of Jefferson Township. FBLA coordinated a district-wide toy drive collecting 8 large bags of toys from the schools in the district, collected and donated 50 Walmart Gift Cards and all the wrapping paper needed to wrap the toys. FBLA, along with DECA will now focus on their regional and state business competitions. Good luck to all the students that will be competing.

Media Center: Kaitlyn Brueno and Nancy Boyle's classes created storyboards using www.storyboardthat.com. Their assignment was based on Dante's Inferno and they were required to depict the Dante's journey through the nine circles of Hell. Students worked in pairs, were assigned specific portions of the journey and had to accurately depict the punishment, the sin, and then explain why the punishment fit the sin they committed. They're given hundreds of options for backgrounds, characters, text boxes, props, etc...allowing students to be creative as long as they were true to the reading they were assigned.



*Students From Mrs. Maxwell's
A.P. & Honors English class
visit Newark Museum*



World Language, ESL and Music Connection:

Instrumental Music:

Jefferson Twp High School was well represented at the North Jersey Area Band auditions on Saturday, December 9, with eight of our students being accepted into the honors ensembles. Ryan Schmidt and James Knapik were selected into the highest group, the Wind Ensemble, and Kara Majury, Annabelle Del Rosario, Alyssa DeNino, Joel Spirodiglozzi, Patrick Flynn, and Alivia Catania were chosen for Symphonic Band. This year the Symphonic Band will be directed by JTHS Director of Bands, Mr. Rich Barrieres. The concert takes place at Mt. Olive High School on January 14 at 3pm.

French AP students "at work"

French AP students have delved into "working life" as they have expanded their vocabulary and knowledge of culture to compare and contrast working life in France and the U.S. Using the French language, they have been working at a high level of proficiency as they have read job ads, created a CV in French, written a letter of interest for a job, and completed a job application. Now they are engaging in mock job interviews in French. They have also seen how proficiency in French opens opportunities in the job market, having researched the many local job ads looking for French speakers.

French IV students are telling stories.

French IV students have been busy expanding their vocabulary and ability to describe real events and situations in life switching between a variety of verb tenses. In addition, they have been perfecting their language skills and expanding their cultural knowledge to compare and contrast holiday celebrations in Francophone countries and here in the U.S.

French II students

Besides participating in the Hour of Code and looking at how proficiency in French can lead to various job opportunities, the French II students have become more familiar with the geography of France and more comfortable with engaging in conversations to talk about their school life and to describe various people and things. Using Footix and Astérix as models, they are now having fun preparing "Show and Tell" presentations in French to share something special with us while using more advanced grammar structures and vocabulary.



JTHS Band Concert

Making a memory at the Madrigal

By Joshua Dyl

December 8-10, the Jefferson Township High School chorus put on the 31st annual Olde English Feast, providing fun for all and a night packed with entertainment.

Those who came to take a seat at the Madrigal had a wonderful time. The cast prepared an eventful show for the public to enjoy.

Choral music director James Wynne was asked in an interview about what the audience should expect while sitting in at the Olde English Feast. "Funny skits, good singing, very good food, good atmosphere, ambiance, great energy everyone looks forward to," Wynne said. His expectations did not disappoint.

Each year, there is a different theme to the Madrigal performances. It is always a success, much like the other shows orchestrated by the chorus cast.

"There are things that are traditional...all skits are different...concert music is different," said Wynne.

One may wonder how the theme came about for this year, since the themes are always different from each other. Since the times change, so does the Madrigal.

"I always keep my eye on the news for things that are happening in state and federal government. The theme is satirical...there is some Saturday Night Live, Gilbert and Sullivan...a witty edge type of humor," Wynne said.

For some of the cast, this was their final performance in the Olde English Feast. Not only to the graduating seniors but to all of the cast, Wynne would like to wish the best of luck.

"Have fun! And they do. They are not too petrified...three different audiences, three different reactions, the show is not the same," Wynne said.

The shows were a great success as always, and those that were fortunate enough to attend made a memory at the Madrigal.

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Students Perform at the Madrigal

Were on the web! Visit us at www.jefftp.org, follow us on Twitter @jthsfalcons, & like us on Facebook

Exceptional Connection: Mr. Rebolz

The students in Mrs. Mason's Language Arts class are using Learning Ally to facilitate student success and academic independence. Students with Learning Ally accounts have access to human-read audio books. This app assists the students in the classroom to achieve academic goals in reading and comprehension. Learning Ally also provides assistance in reading for personal enjoyment and appreciation. Students are able to enjoy literature on any device without assistance.

The students in Mrs. Ciaraffo's Math class have been introduced to Nearpod. This is a power point lesson experience where the instructor can facilitate and control the lesson or students can team up and pace the lesson while the instructor monitors their progress. The lessons allows for practice, corrections, and repetition. Instructors can print out data on how students achieved in each concept presented. The students are able to work and enjoy a pace comfortable for them. December 21st will be the 3rd annual cookie caper for the LLD math classes. The students are sharpening their math skills in the kitchen by making a sweet treat to eat.

On December 22nd, the 18-21 year old program is hosting a Holiday Brunch for their parents, job coaches and administration. They have been practicing their cooking skills every Friday to create a wonderful buffet style brunch.

The students in Mrs. Vanderbok's class have pen pals in Montana. They have been writing letters to students in a Life Skills program in Belt, Montana (a very small town near the northern part of the state) and have been receiving letters in return. Our students are telling their pen pals about their lives and interests in Jefferson and are learning about the lives of their counterparts on the other side of the country. Both groups are planning to Skype in the near future.



Students Enjoy a Trip to the Mall



Happy New Year 2018

