



Jefferson Township High School

1010 Weldon Road, Oak Ridge, NJ 07438
Phone: (973) 697-3535 Fax: (973) 208-8409
www.jefftwp.org



Principal
Dr. Timothy Plotts

Assistant Principals
Vickki Nadler
Michelle Papa

School: High School

Month: October 2019 MONTHLY REPORT

Section I: Good News

- 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 the Student Council Fall Festival. The students also collected donations for the Eleventh Hour Rescue in Rockaway. The next charitable organization they will be working with is the New Hope Food Pantry.
- 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.
- This month our 18-21 transition 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!
- 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 novel 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.
- JTHS girls' field hockey celebrated their first conference championship in history!!!
- JTHS boys' soccer were crowned conference champions!!!
- JTHS girls' soccer were crowned conference champions!!!
- JTHS girls' volleyball were crowned conference champions!!!
- The Sussex County Honor Choir Students that I emailed out last Friday with the board that would be much appreciated. Thank you! **SCMEA Honor Choir:** Alexandra DuHaime, Andrew Cooper, Nino DeNino, Gabriella LaMonica, Kaitlyn Majury, Lily Snow, and Sean Majury.
- 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

Home of the Falcons



social media has an impact on human health with physician and Ted Educator Dr. Melvin Sanicas.

- Our MCST Shared Time students in the Edam and Cybersecurity Option B Program have chosen a very unique academic path. These high achieving students have made the commitment to accelerate their academic career by attending the MCST Program and the County College of Morris full time. At the end of their senior year they will have not only earned their High School Diploma but they will earn their Associates Degree as well. Along with the 20 credits earned from MCST they are taking a full credit load of college level courses in order to complete their Associates Degree. Blaine Edlefsen has shared one of many experiences to grow within his field of Engineering through the Hunch Project for NASA.
- 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 year's 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 cut off 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. The following students were accepted:
 - 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
- 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 Girls volleyball split the conference title.
- JTHS Boys and Girls Soccer both won the conference.
- Red Ribbon Week was held at JTHS from October 23rd until October 31st. Themes for this year were:
 - Wednesday October 23rd: Falcons Stick Together: Twin Day
 - Thursday October 24th: Throwback Thursday: Dress From Another Decade
 - Friday October 25th: Ready To Be Drug Free: Wear Red Day
 - Monday October 28th: Your Choices Are The Key To Your Dreams: Pajama Day
 - Tuesday October 29th: Our Futures Are Bright: College Wear.
 - Wednesday October 30th: Life Is Worth Celebrating: Dress As Your Favorite Holiday
 - Thursday October 31st: Happy Halloween: Wear A Costume!
- Lynne Wilson-Brutchet from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) came in to talk to our seniors about cybersafety. She talked with the students about real life situations regarding cyber security and the laws associated with cyber crimes. The students discussed

responsible choices and high risk behaviors regarding their online activity. Ms. Wilson-Brutchet emphasized how online predators are more prevalent today than ever before and gave the students strategies on how to avoid risky online behaviors. She explained predators' tendencies and how predators will try to exploit particular behaviors. Students also learned about ways they can enhance their online privacy in everyday life.