Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) as a High School Option

TJHSST Admissions Office
Agenda

• Overview of TJHSST
• The Admissions Process
  – Part I: Applying to TJHSST
  – Part II: The Selection Process
• Getting Ready
• Questions
“The mission of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology is to provide students a **challenging learning environment** focused on math, science, and technology, to **inspire joy at the prospect of discovery**, and to **foster a culture of innovation** based on ethical behavior and the shared interests of humanity.”
TJHSST
6560 Braddock Rd
Alexandria, VA 22312
Done in 2016
New Spaces – We’re Almost Done!

Front Dome Entrance

Career Center Commons

Weight Room
New Spaces – We’re Almost Done!

World Languages Hallway

Global Learning Center

Main Gymnasium
What Makes TJHSST Different?

- Regional Governor’s School for Science and Technology
- Students apply to attend
- All courses taught on honors, AP, or post-AP level
- Focus on connecting ideas and making flexible class time
9th Grade - IBET
Sophomore & Junior Year

STEM-Related Electives and Activities
JUMP Lab (Jefferson Underclassmen Multidiscipline Project)
Senior Year

Research Laboratories

- Astronomy & Astrophysics
- Automation & Robotics
- Biotechnology & Life Sciences
- Chemical Analysis & Nanochemistry
- Communication Systems
- Computer Systems
- Energy Systems
- Engineering Design
- Microelectronics
- Mobile and Web Application Development
- Neuroscience
- Oceanography & Geographical Systems
- Prototyping & Engineering Materials
- Quantum Physics & Optics

Mentorship: In-house and off site
More Than Science and Tech

• Electives offered in all subject areas

• World languages
  – Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin, Russian, Spanish
Eighth Period

• In-school activity period Wednesdays/Fridays
• Each week divided into four sections
• Over 180 clubs and activities
• Create your own!
Activities and Athletics at Thomas Jefferson HSST

....the other half of your world-class education!
TJ Fine/Performing Arts

TJ Orchestra

TJ Choir/Theatre

TJ Marching Colonials
TJHSST Athletics

• Full complement of competitive VHSL teams
  – Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Freshmen teams
• Fall, Winter and Spring seasons
• Tradition of success
• Teams play and practice after school
The TJHSST Day

- School Hours
  - 8:40 A.M. until 4:00 P.M.
- 8 Periods (not 7)
- Block Scheduling
- Common Lunch
- No Bells!
What is TJHSST looking for?

1. Evidence of **academic achievement** in school

2. Demonstrated **genuine interest/curiosity/creativity** in STEM
Eligibility Requirements

- 8th grade to apply to 9th
- Residency in a participating school division
- Algebra 1 or higher in 8th grade
- 3.0 GPA in core academic classes

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
New FCPS Website Design & Logo

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) Admissions

The admissions process to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.
TJHSST Freshman Winter Application Process
TJHSST Freshman Winter Application Process

Apply Online: Class of 2021 Application
Application portal available September 19
Submit all necessary information

$90 processing fee, reduced fee and waivers available upon request
Application Deadline

Friday, October 14

Application submitted before 4 p.m.

“Never put off til tomorrow what you can do today.”

-Thomas Jefferson
Test Day

The TJHSST Admissions test is

**December 3, 2016**

- 17 testing sites (must choose a site in county of residence*)
  - 12 in Fairfax County
  - 03 in Loudoun County
  - 01 in Prince William County
  - 01 in Arlington County

- Testing accommodations and alternate date testing available upon written request

*Falls Church City applicants may select any site*
The TJHSST Admissions Test

Two-hour math and verbal reasoning test

- 45 Verbal questions (50 pts)
  - Scrambled paragraphs
  - Logical reasoning
  - Reading comprehension

- 50 Math questions (50 pts)
  - Word problems and computations

- Total: 100 pts
January

Semifinalist Pool Determination

• Based on a sliding scale of grade point average and test scores

• GPA: 7\textsuperscript{th} grade final marks and 1\textsuperscript{st} quarter 8\textsuperscript{th} grade marks (core subjects)
Semifinalist Materials

• All semifinalists must:
  – Get Teacher Recommendations
    • Must be entered into system by 4:00 pm on January 27
  – Complete Student Information Sheet and Student Essay
    • Assessed at test site on Saturday, January 28
March

Comprehensive holistic evaluation process of semifinalist materials performed by a team of highly qualified, veteran educators.

Semifinalist materials include:

– Student Information Sheet
– Essay
– Teacher Recommendations
– G.P.A. (Core courses and math/science G.P.A.)
– Admissions Test Scores (Math and Verbal)
April

Admissions Notification

• Notifications made no later than April 30
• Approximately 480 students will be admitted
Important Dates

- Sep 19 – Application Available (4:00 pm)
- Oct 14 – Application Deadline (4:00 pm)
- Dec 3 – Admissions Test
- Jan 13 – Semifinalist Notification
- Jan 27 – Teacher Rec. Information entry
- Jan 28 – SIS & Essay Test
- Apr 30 – Notification Release Deadline
Getting Ready
Think about.....

• What about STEM are you interested in? Why?

• What have you done to pursue that interest?

• What did you learn from your STEM experience(s)?

• Why TJ?
Pursue your interest in **STEM**

- Get involved in something you are interested in related to **STEM** outside of the school day
  - Get involved in clubs and competitions
  - Visit museums and **STEM** related events
  - Find out more about **STEM** topics you like on your own
Work hard and stay informed

• Get the best grades possible in all your classes, especially your core courses: Math, Science, English, Social Studies, World Language

• Be an enthusiastic learner!

• Know the admissions process
Prepare for the Admissions Test

• Read as much as you can
• Practice your math, including basic math and problem solving
• Review our sample test
TJHSST Freshman Winter Application Process

TESTING INFORMATION
Information about taking the TJHSST Test.
Freshman Round Testing Information

LOOKING FOR THE SAMPLE TEST?
Student Handbook with Sample Test.
Have a Plan “B”

Reality Check #1:
• 2868 Students Applied in 2015
• 1280 Became Semifinalists
• 483 Offered Admission
  (About One in Six)

Reality Check #2:
• Most students offered admission scored 42 or better on the math portion of admissions test
• Most students offered admission were taking Geometry in grade 8

Reality Check #3:
• Students with a G.P.A. below 3.0 in grade 7 may not meet the semifinalist G.P.A. requirement

Reality Check #4:
• TJ is only one of MANY OPTIONS to pursue STEM in your school division
TJHSST Admissions Website

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) Admissions

The admissions process to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

www.TJAdmissions.org
Questions?

Admissions Office

571-423-3770

tjadmissions@fcps.edu