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.
STEM

- Science
- Engineering
- Technology
- Mathematics
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
Examples of STEM Elective Courses

- Statistics
- Neurobiology
- Quantum Mechanics
- Marine Biology
- Nanotechnology
- Astronomy
- Organic Chemistry
- Computational Physics
Senior Year
Research Laboratories

- Astronomy
- Biotechnology
- Communication Systems
- Computer Systems
- Energy Systems
- Modern Physics
- Oceanography

- Automation & Robotics
- Chemical Analysis
- Computer Assisted Design
- Microelectronics
- Neuroscience
- Prototyping
Mentorship

- Off-Site Mentorship
- In-House Mentorship
More Than Science and Tech

• Electives offered in all subject areas

• World languages
  – Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin, Russian, Spanish
TJHST Diploma Requirements
26 credits total

• 4 science
  (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geosystems)
• 4 Math
  (through AP Calculus)
• 3 Technology
  (incl. Computer Science)
• 1 Design & Tech

• 1 Personal Finance
• 4 English
• 4 Social Studies
• 3 World Languages
  (in one language)
• 2 Health & Physical Education
Commitment to Service
Student Life at TJHSST
The TJHSST Day

• School Hours
  – 8:30 A.M. until 3:50 P.M.
• 8 Periods (not 7)
• Block Scheduling
• Common Lunch
• P.M. Break
• No Bells!
Eighth Period

• **Period 8 is an activity period**
  – Student Services activities, study hall, tutoring, lab work, school publications, etc.
  – Clubs & other activities

• **Over 165 activities offered**
What is TJHSST looking for?

1. Evidence of academic achievement in school
2. Demonstrated genuine Interest/Curiosity/Creativity in STEM
Applicant Pool  (Class of 2016)

3300 + Apply

1562 Semifinalists

480 Admitted
The Admissions Process

• Applying to TJ
  – The Application (Available online and by paper)
  – The Admissions Test

• The Selection Process
TJHSST Admissions Timeline

- Applications available (9/24)
- Open House (10/13)
- Applications due (10/19)
- Admissions test (12/1)
- Semifinalists notified (1/23)
- Semifinalist materials due
- Essays reviewed
- Selection review
- Final notification (3/29)
Eligibility Requirements

• 8th grade to apply to 9th
• Residency in a participating school division
• Algebra 1 or higher in 8th grade

$(a + b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$
The Application

• NEW THIS YEAR: You can apply online!
• Application seeks general information
• Select your Test Site for December
• Processing Fee ($90) Reduced fee and waivers available on request
• If you do not attend public school, you must verify residency
Admissions

Apply to TJHSST
Decision Process
Eligibility
FAQs

Freshman Winter
Freshman Summer
Sophomore
Junior

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST)

Freshman Winter Round:

- Class of 2017 Application Information
- Testing Information
- Semifinalist Information (Available in January 2013)
- Important Dates for 2012-2013 Winter Round
- Additional Information

TJHSST Admissions Online Application

Wait! Before you begin, did you read the online application guidelines? Be sure to read the online application guidelines before completing the application. Go to the appropriate link above.

Click here to apply online beginning September 24, 2012
“Never put off til tomorrow what you can do today.”

-Thomas Jefferson
Test Day

The TJHSST Admissions test is December 1, 2012

• 15 sites (most at middle schools in Fairfax County)

• Testing accommodations and alternate date testing available upon written request
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
On test day, applicants also write two essays in response to specific essay prompts.

- Essay 1 focuses on real-world problem solving with an ethical component
- Essay 2 requires self-reflection and self-assessment
January

Semifinalist Pool Determination

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

• GPA: 7th grade final marks and 1st quarter 8th grade marks (core subjects)
February

Submit Semifinalist Materials

• All semifinalists must:
  – Get Teacher Recommendations
  – Prepare Student Information Sheet

• All materials are due in February.
March

Admissions Decisions

Final decisions are based on the following:

– Student Information Sheet

– Teacher Recommendations

– Math and Science G.P.A.

– Math Admissions Test Scores

– Essay Scores
March

Admissions Notification

• Notifications made in late March.

• 480 students will be admitted.
Getting Ready
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 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 (7th grade and 8th grade)

• Be an enthusiastic learner!

• Know the admissions process.
Prepare for the Admissions Test

• Read as much as you can
• Practice essay writing skills
• Practice your math, including basic math
• Review our sample test
Welcome to the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) Admissions Website.

Documents

Use the links below to access forms, guidelines, and other materials to help you through the admissions process. If you have any questions, please contact the TJHSST Admissions Office at 571-423-3770 or by email at tjadmissions@fcps.edu.

- Current TJHSST Students
- Freshman Winter Round, Class of 2017

Residency

- Proof of Residency (Private and home schooled applicants only)

The Admissions Test

- Student Handbook for the Admissions Test 2012*
- How to Prepare on Your Own for the TJHSST Admissions Test
Parents: Helping your child

• Let your child take ownership of applying to TJHSST
• Encourage your child to pursue their interest in STEM
• Encourage your child to prepare for the admissions test
• Be supportive and realistic
Additional Information
Welcome to the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) Admissions Website.

www.TJAdmissions.org
Open House

Saturday, October 13
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
The Admissions Office

571-423-3770
tjadmissions@fcps.edu
Questions?