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Raider Reporter



AUGUST 2018

WWW.FWPS.ORG/TJHS

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(SEE BELOW FOR
FINAL 4 DIGITS)

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5603

Finance

5625

Athletics

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5604

Counselors:

Cheryl Brandes

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Kristen Leon

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Welcome to TJ for the 2018-2019 School Year

Dear Parents and Students,

I want to welcome all our new and returning students and parents to a new school year. This year marks 50 years of TJ! We have an incredible history of preparing our kids for their next steps in life, whatever that may look like. We look forward to celebrating this great year with you. We have been planning and working throughout the summer to be sure TJ is ready to meet the needs of all our students.

Last spring, Thomas Jefferson High School was recognized on the 2018 Best High Schools list, published by US News and World Report. We received a Bronze Medal and were ranked nationally. We were also named as one of the top 50 high schools in the state of Washington. This truly was an honor and a great reflection on all the hard work our staff does to meet the needs of all of our students here at TJ.

We are so proud of our school!



Adrienne Chacón, Principal

Many of our staff spent their summer working with other educators from around the world to share and learn ideas on how to best support students in school. We are already working together to bring some of these wonderful ideas to TJ this year. We have so many programs we look forward to sharing with you all as you join the TJ Family.

Faculty Changes:

Last June we said goodbye to Kathy Beiderman, Jon Greb, Robin Hall, Chris Juergens, Ryan Miller, Leslie Uglem and Harvey and Amanda Cole, who are all moving on to new positions. We thank them all for their contributions at TJ and wish them the best on their new adventures.

For the new year, I would like to welcome Aaron Lee to Math, Delaney Hanon and Connor Litchman to History, and Elizabeth Buckner and Kari Williams Miller to SPED. Other positions are being finalized and will be introduced at the beginning of the school year.

Program Updates At TJ

A quick reminder about some of the programs we run to support our students' needs at school.

Schedule Time There are no changes to our schedule this year. We will begin school at 7:25 and dismiss at 1:55. As a reminder, TJ is on a block schedule. Students will have odd numbered classes on the Red Day and even numbered classes on the Gold

Day. The schedule will be published on the website shortly as we finalize our calendar.

ATL Class: As a reminder, TJ is an IB school. IB requires us to prepare our students for the rigor of the IB programme. This class teaches students how to be students (homework, skills, learning styles, Approaches to Learning) with an internationally minded focus, while also supporting their transition into high school. All 9th and 10th graders will be taking this class. 9th grade is a full year, 10th grade is a semester-long class. We look forward to supporting students with tools on how to succeed in high school.

8-Pt Grading Scale: All of our 9th/10th grade students are considered full-IB students at TJ. The IB requires us to grade all MYP students on an 8-pt scale, utilizing the IB Middle Years Programme rubrics. We look forward to working with you soon to further explain what that will look like in the near future.

TJ is an International Baccalaureate World School!

We believe that all students deserve the best education possible. One that prepares them to be active, life-long learners.

We will support this by providing challenging curricular programs that develop inquiring, knowledgeable, internationally-minded and caring young people who actively try to create a better world through intercultural understanding and respect.

Again, all 9th and 10th graders at TJ are full IB students in the Middle Years Program (MYP). The IB believes in

Did You Know???

TJ is a Closed Campus

The Federal Way School District has a closed campus policy for all schools. This means that students are to remain on campus for the entire school day.

No off-campus lunch passes will be issued. With student safety in mind, we also do not allow non-TJ students to come visit. This also includes lunchtime visitors, with the exception of parents, who are always welcome.

With this in mind, please note that students MUST have their TJHS issued ID/ASB card on them at all times.

Principal's Letter Continued...

teaching the "whole student" through not just core subjects, but also world language, arts, technology and service. Toward the end of 10th grade, we encourage students to decide which Diploma Program (DP) classes they will be taking. Most students will take some sort of DP class at their appropriate level, whether it is a core, music, art, business, world language or CTE technology class. Diploma classes also provide opportunities to receive college credit if they score a 4 or higher on their IB exams.

All of these courses will help your student prepare for their future by challenging and developing essential skills they will need.

Students also have the opportunity to choose our Career-Related Programme (CP) instead of a full IB Diploma. This is a wonderful program for students that want to challenge themselves, but may also want to



take a career-related path. Students test in two diploma level classes, select Career-related program, and complete a project-based portfolio that incorporates the vision of their IB learning and their tech studies. At the end of their 12th grade year they can earn an IB CP certificate upon completing this programme. The programme is specifically designed to provide a flexible learning framework that can be tailored by the school to meet the needs of students. We look forward to the opportunities this Certificate will provide for our students. Stay tuned for more information soon.

Home / School Communication Is The Key To Your Child's Success

Research shows there is a direct relationship between student success and parent success. We want to work together with you to support your students throughout their high school experience.

Please take a look at the Tips For High School Success portion of this newsletter for some ideas on how you can help your students succeed here at TJ. Here are some other ways for you to be involved.

*The Raider Parent Movement is our parent group that supports the 4A's here at TJ Academics, Athletics, Activities and Arts. Check out their website: www.tjrpm.org

*Be sure you can access your ParentVUE account so you can access grades and attendance immediately. You can even download the ParentVUE or StudentVUE app on your phone! 9th grade parents will use the same information as last year to access this.

*There are parent meetings and conferences during the year to update you about your child's performance. Your child's counselor is always pleased to hear from you if you have questions.

*I am always happy to hear from you if you have any questions. achacon@fwps.org

*The school website is also an important way to find out what is going on at school. (www.fwps.org/tjhs)

We look forward to welcoming you during registration later this month. I hope you are enjoying your last few weeks of summer vacation. We look forward to another year as part of this AMAZING school where all of us are part of the Raider Family at Thomas Jefferson High School.

Sincerely,

**Adrienne Chacón
Principal
Thomas Jefferson HS**

TJ Has a Simplified Bell Schedule!

"Red and Gold Days" are here! All High Schools in the FWPS District are on an 8 period class schedule, with 4 alternating periods each day. Essentially we have four different kinds of days in our schedule next year.

Please become familiar with the following vocabulary:

Red Day: a basic period 1,3,5,7 day

Gold Day: a basic period 2,4,6,8 day

Red Advisory Day: periods 1,3,5,7 with Advisory built in

Gold Advisory Day: periods 2,4,6,8 with Advisory built in.

The Red/Gold schedule will be posted later this month on our website, and will be available at registration. Take a look and it should begin to make sense!

Attendance is Important!



Please check TJ's Peachjar account for enrichment flyers, newsletters, important district and school paperwork, bus schedules and other important information.

Federal Way Public Schools' District Office would like to remind you to like FWPS' Facebook page
@fwps210



Regular attendance in all classes is more important than ever. Because of our longer class periods, students will miss more by being absent. Please be sure to read the course syllabi that your student's teachers will send home. Each syllabus will outline how the teacher will deal with make-up work and time missed. If your student is going to be absent or tardy,

please call and leave a message on our Attendance Line (253) 945-5603.

If you need your student to be released from class during the school day for appointments (Dr., Dentist, etc.), please send a note with your student to bring to the attendance office in the morning so that they can be ready to be dismissed from class at the appropriate time.

Student's Rights & Responsibilities/Bus Routes

During the first week of school, each student will be issued a **Student's Rights & Responsibilities** book, which outlines the District guidelines for discipline. Be sure to go over these with your student so that you understand the expectations of the school and the district regarding student behavior. All of the expectations emphasize respect for one another and for the school, as the place where every student deserves the right to an excellent education.

Bus routes will be listed on the district website (www.fwps.org/domain/199) approximately 2 weeks before school begins.

Questions or concerns about bus stops and times should be directed to the Federal Way District Transportation Office at 945-5960.



FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974)

FERPA is a law that says that you can tell us who can see your child's directory information, such as his or her name, photo, or other information for specific uses. The district form, "Request to Restrict Student Directory Information" is available in the counseling or main office. It's also available online at

www.fwps.org/Page/2215. Before signing, please read it carefully, as it may impact whether your child can be recognized in district publications, the news media and school publications such as the yearbook and graduation program. The form does not need to be completed if you agree to the release of your student's directory

information for the uses described in the form. If the form is not completed and turned in, or boxes are left empty, Federal Way Public Schools will assume we have your permission to use your child's information as described in the form.

Read more at: www.fwps.org/Page/2215

Student Fee Schedule

Breakfast	\$ 2.00
Lunch	\$ 3.25
Milk	\$.60

ASB Card	\$35.00
Replacement	\$ 3.00

Annual (Yearbook)	\$50.00
After 12/31	\$55.00

Parking	\$20.00
Parking, Extra Sticker	\$ 5.00

Field Trips—Fee may vary depending on cost

Replacement of Items—A fee may be assessed for the replacement of items such as PE locks, uniforms, recorders, planners, workbooks, etc.

Fines & Damages—Fines may be imposed for the damage or loss to any property of the district; or the property of a contractor of the District, an employee, or another student. Examples may include lost textbooks and/or damages to school property such as busses, bldgs., etc.



Do You Want It for Free?

Do you want to turn in college applications for free? Do you want to take your ACT exam for free? Do you want internet access in your home for only \$9.95 a month? Not to mention free lunch daily for your student?

Free and Reduced Lunch is so much more than just free food. It is a way to help families ensure their students don't miss out on any opportunities they deserve because of financial hardships. Sign up now! You can apply online on the FWPS website, www.fwps.org/Page/354, under **MEAL APP NOW**. We will also have applications available during registration here at school.

Applying online is the fastest way to get your application approved. Paper forms can take up to 10 days to process. The system is very secure; your information remains private. It will be used only for the meal application process. To fill out the form, go to www.fwps.org/Page/354 and follow the directions under **MEAL APP NOW**.

Questions? Call Nutrition Services 253-945-5555

School/Senior Pictures

Class Act Portraits will be here during registration days to take student ID, yearbook and ASB pictures. Picture packets can also be ordered.

Make-up days for any students who do not get their picture taken on registration day will be September 5th and 6th. Picture **retake day** will be October 5th. Pictures will be taken during lunch.

The **Senior group picture** will be on September 21. Seniors who wish to have portraits taken at a photography studio must be sure **THEY** get their picture to the Annual advisor as soon as possible. For more information, including picture

specifications and due date, see the Yearbook page on the TJ website <https://www.fwps.org/Page/6016>



Traffic Safety Registration

Learn to Drive this year by signing up for Traffic Safety Classes. Students must be 15 years old before class starts to register for Traffic Safety classes.

Enrollment forms are available at each High School or online at www.fwps.org/domain/812.

The Traffic Safety Office is located at Federal Way High School, For further information about all TSE classes and payment you can go to the web site at www.fwps.org/domain/812, or call 253-945-5731.



Tips For High School Success



Parents often ask us what they can do to support their students as they transition into high school. Here are a few tips for you as we work together to support lifelong success for our kids.

Great Expectations

What is one of the best ways to help your teens succeed in school? Expect a lot from them! If you make your expectations clear from the start, they will work harder to meet them. Try these strategies.

Be clear. Think about what you want your youngster to do or accomplish this year. For example, you might expect them to attend school every day, complete all assignments, and do their best. Be sure to set expectations that are high – but doable. (anticipating all A's, for instance, could simply set them up for failure) Then, communicate your expectations to them clearly.

Keep in view. As the year goes on, weave your expectations into daily conversations. You might say, “Do you want to watch a movie when your homework is finished?” rather than “Do you want to watch a movie?” Also, don't give in if they ask for “exceptions.” If they want to stay home from school to catch up on sleep, you could respond, “you can sleep in this weekend, but you have to go to school every day unless you're sick.”

Follow through. Try to support your teens in ways that will help them meet your expectations. Say your child has a big project due Monday. Ask about the weekend plans, and mention that you know he/she needs time to work. Then, before he/she leaves for a football game or a party, check on the progress. Listen to the plans for finishing the project, and discuss whether they're viable.

*When your teen meets your expectations, be sure to let him/her know you've noticed.

Organization In A Snap

Setting up systems now will save your high schooler time throughout the year. Share these ideas for organizing school materials:

*Your teen can keep schoolwork in order by assigning a color to each subject. If his history folder is orange, for instance, he could put an orange cover on his history textbook.

*Encourage your student to use her student planner regularly. During class, she should write down assignments as they are given.

*Suggest that your student place materials (handouts, study guides) in the correct folder. At home, he might keep another set of

color-coded folders in a drawer or box so he can file graded work or old papers he'll need later when studying for tests.

Involved At School

Extracurricular activities can help your teens form stronger ties to school and to their classmates. Try these suggestions to encourage them to be a joiner or a leader.

Find your place. First, help him think about what suits him. Does he like to be in the limelight or out of it? Does he like making things? Does he want to explore a career? Then encourage him to use his personality and interests to find the right organization or activity for him, whether it's building props for the school musical, joining the robotics club, or participating in DECA or FBLA.

Take a role. Maybe your high schooler is already part of a group and she's ready to get more involved. She might run for treasurer of Key Club or apply for an editor's spot on the yearbook committee.

Tip: If the school doesn't have a particular activity, suggest that she consider starting it. She could ask a PE teacher about creating an intramural team or talking to her science teacher about starting a gardening club.

The best thing you can do to support your student here at TJ is to get involved. Whatever you can do in your already busy life will make all the difference in your student's success in high school.