

2024-2025 Profile



27 Martin Luther King Jr., Plaza
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
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<https://www.epsnj.org/jefferson>

Contact Information

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer

Principal

Dr. Mona Wanis

Administrators

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Gabrielle Richa
Fatimah Bey

School Counselors

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Located in the heart of Elizabeth's business district, and housed in one of the city's iconic school buildings. The school was first built in 1928 as an all-boys high school and named for the primary author of the Declaration of Independence and the third president of the United States. The school is now a high school academy and the center for the district's visual and performing arts programs serving over 1,000 students. Students enrolled in Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, addition to completing a rigorous college preparatory program, conduct in-depth studies in visual, performing, and digital arts. Our arts programs develop students' senses of aesthetics and personal expression to further refine their creative talents. Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy offers five studio programs in the arts, in the areas of audio and visual media, performing arts, theatre and visual arts. Bolstered by strong relationships with local arts institutions (including the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey and Paper Mill Playhouse) and emerging partnerships with Advanced Via Individual Determination (AVID), Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy maintains a treasured past, a bright future, and a deep commitment to our shared mission: to provide excellent education experience and services that will inspire every student to think, to learn, to achieve, and to care.

School Information

Students in
the class
290

Counselor
caseload
230

Percent of students who participate
in low-income programs
81%



CLASS OF 2024

Attending a
4-year college
50%

Attending a
2-year college
24%

Pursuing
career,
military,
gap year
26%

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

120 credits are required for graduation.
Full year courses receive 5 or 10
credits, for single or double period classes.

SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ 4 Years English (20 credits)
- ✓ 3 Years Mathematics (15 credits)
- ✓ 3 Years Science (15 credits)
- ✓ 4 Years Physical Education /Health (20 credits)
- ✓ 3 Years History (15 credits)
- ✓ 2 Years World Language (10 credits)
- ✓ 1 Year Visual and Performing Arts (5 credits)
- ✓ 1 Year Personal Finance (2.5 credits)
- ✓ 1 Year Career and Technical Education (5 credits)

AP BY THE NUMBERS

327
exams
given

12
courses
offered

14% score of 3

7% score of 4

1% score of 5

SCHOOL RECOGNITION

Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy has been recognized as a Model School in the Arts by the NJ Arts Education Partnership and has been recognized in the Washington Post's Challenge Index of NJ High Schools. The school has also been recognized with numerous other local and state awards, including: the EPS Bronze Key for College-Going Culture, the Grammy Signature Schools Community Award, and identification with other Elizabeth high schools for the College Board Gaston Caperton Honor Roll.



SUMMARY HIGHLIGHT

Selected as Model School in the Arts by the NJ Arts Education Partnership. Widest variety of performing and visual arts curriculum of any high school in Union County, NJ. Partnerships with Paper Mill Playhouse, the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, Elizabeth Youth Theatre Ensemble (EYTE), The Theater Project, Montclair State University, NJIT and other organizations.

TJAA COURSE OFFERINGS

English:

English I, II, III, IV, English I Honors, English II Honors, English Language (AP), English Literature and Composition (AP)

Mathematics:

Geometry, Geometry Honors, Algebra I Advanced, Algebra II, Algebra II Honors, Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus (AP), Calculus AB (AP), Statistics (AP)

Social Studies:

World History Culture, World History (AP), US History I, US History I Honors, US History II, US History II Honors, US History (AP)

Science:

Biology, Biology Honors, Biology (AP), Chemistry, Chemistry Honors, Environmental Science, Environmental Science Honors

Physical Education/Health Education:

Physical Education/Health I, II, III, IV

World Language:

Spanish I, II, Spanish Language (AP), French I, II, III

Visual and Performing Arts:

Drawing/Painting I, II, Drawing/Painting III & IV Honors, Sculpture I, II, Studio Art 2D (AP) & Drawing (AP), Drama I, II, Drama III & IV Honors, Dance I, II, Dance III & IV Honors, Chorus I, II, Chorus III & IV Honors, Concert Band I, II, Concert Band III & IV Honors, Guitar I, II, Guitar III & IV Honors

Career and Technical Education:

Music Technology I, II, Theater Technology, Set Design & Woodworking, Graphic Design I, II, III, IV, Broadcast Media Production I, II, III,

TJAA CLUBS

National Honor Society, National Honors Society of Dance Arts, Acapella Chorus, Book Club, Dance Club, Music Technology Club, Podcast Club, Science Club, Skills USA Club, TV Club/AV Media Club, Visual Arts Club, Writing Club, Yearbook Club, SOUL Club

GRADE SCALE

Letter	Percent	GPA	GPA Honors/AP
A+	97 – 100	4.35	5.35
A	93 – 96	4	5
A-	90 – 92	3.65	4.65
B+	87 – 89	3.35	4.35
B	83 – 86	3	4
B-	80 – 82	2.65	3.65
C+	77 – 79	2.35	3.35
C	73 – 76	2	3
C-	70 – 72	1.65	2.65
D+	67 – 69	1.35	2.35
D	63 – 66	1	2
F	0 – 62	0	0
I	Incomplete		
X	Doctor's		
W	Withdraw		