



Thomas Jefferson
Arts
Academy

Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent
Michael Ojeda, Principal
Alexandra Mickens, Vice Principal
Danny Ortiz, Vice Principal
Cheryl Ann Popielarski, Vice Principal

August 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians and Families:

On behalf of the staff here at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, it is with great pleasure that we welcome all of our new families as well as our returning families to the 2019 – 2020 school year! We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you in order to ensure that our children reach their highest academic potential possible. As partners, we will work together to nourish a rich and rewarding education for our students. The school year will be both inspiring and academically successful; as a result, together, we will supply every child with the necessary tools to become lifelong learners and outstanding citizens in the future. We share the responsibility for our children's success and we want you to know that we will work diligently to implement our mission – for we do believe it is very important that *every child achieves excellence*.

➤ **First Day of School / Arrival and Dismissal Procedures**

The 2019 – 2020 school year will begin on **Thursday, September 5th, 2019**. Classes will be in session between the hours of **7:45 a.m. until 3:20 p.m.** In order to help facilitate a smooth transition, please adhere to the following arrival and dismissal procedures:

- On the first day of school, students will be asked to **report to their homeroom, which is noted on the label of this mailer, at 7:45 a.m.** In homeroom, students will receive their schedule and review school procedures before reporting to class.
- Students are expected to arrive to school by 7:40 a.m. each day in order to report to class by 7:45 a.m.
- Beginning on **Monday, September 9th**, any student arriving to school after 7:45 a.m. will receive an afterschool detention on the following school day.
- **Pick-Up and Drop-Off.** Due to traffic, many families may find it more convenient to drop off students one to two blocks away from the school. Please be mindful that Martin Luther King Plaza and Morrell Street are one-way streets. Any families wishing to drop off a student may do so by 7:40 a.m. at the following locations:
 - **For Grade 9:** At the front (40 Morrell St.) or rear (Martin Luther King Plaza) of our Freshman Academy.
 - **For Grades 10-12:** At our Main Entrance on Martin Luther King Plaza entrance.



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➤ **Breakfast Program**

School breakfast is served daily in our schools. It is imperative that you accurately complete a breakfast/lunch application so that your child’s payment status can be determined. Applications and nutrition information may be found by visiting our district website at www.epsnj.org.

Our doors open every day at 7:15 a.m. for students who arrive early and wish to eat breakfast at school.

➤ **Uniform Policy**

Dress Code Guidelines are established to promote a standard of appearance which enhances the learning environment while allowing for the reasonable comfort of all students.

Uniforms are expected to be worn on a daily basis. Please note that hats, bandanas, scarves, and other inappropriate head gear, including hooded garments, are not part of the school uniform and should not be worn. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to purchase the proper school uniform for his/her child. If a student moves to another school that has a different school uniform, any purchase of a school uniform for the new school will also be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. **(EBOE Policy Code 5132, 5133)**

STUDENT UNIFORM LIST

BOYS	Grades 9-12
	Purple Polo/Oxford Shirt* Black Pants Black Flat Shoes Appropriate for School Black Cardigan Sweater*

GIRLS	Grades 9-12
	Purple Polo/Oxford Shirt* Black Pants/Skirt Black Flat Shoes Appropriate for School Black Cardigan Sweater*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- White T-Shirt* or Purple Sweatshirt*
- Purple Mesh Shorts* or Purple Sweatpants*
- Sneakers (Black)



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NOTE: Grade 9-12 students must bring their gym uniform to change for physical education class.

*All items marked with an asterisk must have the LEAP logo (neighborhood school emblem) or the school's logo.

**Khaki shorts must be knee high and only worn between May 15th and October 1st.

Please note that this is a standard uniform list for most neighborhood schools. The uniform policy is the same districtwide but may vary in color depending on the school/academy.

Visible tattoos are prohibited. **A student cannot be admitted to class if he/she is out of uniform.**

➤ **Communication**

It is extremely important that we have the most updated phone numbers and home address so that we may contact you in the event of an emergency or to discuss your child's progress. Please be sure to notify both the teacher *and* the main office at any time throughout the course of the school year if there is a change in address and/or a phone number. Open communication between the home and the school is expected and is one of the most pertinent keys to academic success in school.

➤ **District Forms**

In an effort to save time for the parents as well as school resources, we are transitioning all school forms (i.e. school compact, school emergency form, media release form, health/physical form, and internet permission form) to be completed online. Please be on the lookout for announcements about these forms:

- 2019 – 2020 Emergency Form
- Student Internet & Network Permission Form
- Media Release Form
- District Website Parent/Guardian Consent Form
- Emergency Information
- Notice Regarding Physical Form
- Authorization for Release of Confidential Medical Information
- Bulletin 45: Request for Student Supervision Afterschool Dismissal Form
- 2019 – 2020 District School Calendar



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➤ **District's Code of Student Conduct**

The Board of Education believes that an effective instructional program requires an orderly school environment and that the effectiveness of the educational program is, in part, reflected in the behavior of pupils. The Board of Education expects pupils to conduct themselves in keeping with their level of maturity, with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other pupils, for school personnel, for the educational purpose underlying all school activities, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

For the full version of the Code of Student Conduct policy, please visit <https://www.epsnj.org>.

➤ **Electronic Devices and Other Personal Property**

Cell phones, iPods, beepers, headphones, radios, and other electronic devices are not to be used in school. They will be confiscated if seen and a parent must come to school to pick up the confiscated items. Schools are not responsible for lost, damaged, or misplaced electronic devices.

Jefferson Arts students are not permitted to use cell phones during class time and/or passing time and are discouraged from bringing them to school. If brought to school, cell phones must be kept in the lockers.

➤ **Attendance**

New Jersey statutes require every parent / guardian or other persons having custody and control of a child between the ages of 6 and 16 years to cause such child regularly to attend the public schools of the district. A student must be in attendance for at least 171 of the 180-day school year (95%). In order to be considered to have successfully completed the instructional program requirements of the grade / course to which he/she is assigned, no more than a total of nine (9) absences is allowed. **(EBOE Policy Code 5113)**

➤ **Safety and Security**

Please note that the safety of our students is of the utmost importance to us. Therefore, please have the proper photo identification readily available for the security guards in order to receive a visitor's pass upon entering the building. An orderly school environment is essential to the success of our learning program.



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➤ **Graduation Requirements**

The Elizabeth Board of Education shall award a state-endorsed diploma to acknowledge the successful completion of the requirements for high school graduation. The Elizabeth Board of Education diploma will represent a high standard of curriculum content, instruction, and student learning, thereby ensuring post-secondary readiness for all graduates in the 21st century.

Academic Requirements:

- Twenty (20) Credits in language arts literacy;
- Twenty (20) Credits in mathematics (including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and higher mathematics);
- Fifteen (15) Credits in social studies (including 10 credits in the history of the United States in satisfaction of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 and 2; and 5 credits in world history); and the integration of civics, geography and global content in all course offerings;
- Two-and-a-Half (2.5) Credits in financial literacy;
- Twenty (20) Credits in science, including at least five credits in laboratory biology/life science; an additional five credits in a laboratory/inquiry-based science course including chemistry, environmental science, or physics; and third and fourth laboratory/inquiry-based science courses.
- Sixteen (16) Credits in physical education, health, and safety during each year of enrollment, as required by N.J.S.A. 18A: 35-5, 7 and 8;
- Five (5) Credits in visual and performing arts;
- Five (5) Credits in 21st century life and careers, or career-technical education;
- Ten (10) Credits in World Languages;
- Technology literacy, consistent with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, integrated throughout the curriculum;
- All courses shall be taught at the college preparatory, honors, or advanced placement levels;
- Students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) courses are required to take the designated AP examination administered by the College Board. If the student does not take the AP exam, the student's AP course designation must be changed from Advanced Placement to Honors and the modification must be recorded in the student's records and transcript; and
- Effective beginning with the high school graduating class of 2014, and all subsequent graduating classes, students must take the SAT®, ACT®, or equivalent college entrance exam.

➤ **Back-to-School Night**

Our Back-to-School Night will be held on Thursday, September 19th, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
During this time, parents will have the opportunity to speak with teachers, visit classrooms, and sign up for the PTO. Please consider signing up.



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The faculty and staff here at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy are eager to launch an amazing year. Jefferson has been a cornerstone of our community for almost a century and we look forward to continuing our legacy of academic and creative excellence. It is my privilege to serve you.

Respectfully,

Michael Ojeda
Principal