

WELCOME CLASS OF 2029

August 26, 2025

- Dr. Mona Wanis, Principal
- Ms. Fatimah Bey, Annex Administrator
- Ms. Alexandra Mickens, Vice Principal
- Ms. Gabrielle Richa, Vice Principal





- Imani Lewars, Guidance
- Jameela Abdus-Salaam, Guidance
- Natasha Carter, Guidance
- Dayana Gil, Guidance
- Cindy Goncalves, Guidance
- Edson Martinez, Social Worker
- YES Program

OUR MISSION

To inspire young artists to think, learn, achieve, and care.



OUR STORY





Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

INTEGRITY • RESPONSIBILITY • EXCELLENCE



THOMAS JEFFERSON ARTS ACADEMY



Recognized as one of the "Best High Schools" by U.S. News & World Report





















CONGRATULATIONS

THOMAS
JEFFERSON
ARTS
ACADEMY

RECOGNIZED FOR ACADEMIC RIGOR

Jay Matthews
The Washington Post

HIGH SCHOOL Challenge Index

2020

THOMAS JEFFERSON ARTS ACADEMY

Broadcasting Media Production

- Produce, edit, direct film/video
- Cameras and Lighting
- Video Editing

Graphic Design

- Digital images
- Advertisement
- Personalization

Performing Arts

- Dance
- Vocal
- Instrumental

Theater

- Performance
- Technical Theater

Visual Arts

- Drawing, Painting
- Sculpture
- Commercial Photography

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

- Dual Enrollment with Kean University
 - Drama
 - Dance
- Industry Certification
 - Graphic Design Adobe Photoshop
 - Broadcast Media Production -Adobe Premiere
- Student Workshops
 - Record High Prudential Center of NJ (Music)
 - Kean University Choir/Music Department
 - Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company

THEATER PARTNERSHIPS

Speech & Theater Association of NJ

NJIT – Rutgers Theater Department

Two River Theater Red Bank of NJ

The Theater Project Professional

Theater Company

American Theater Group

Shakespeare Theater of NJ

Elizabeth Youth Theater Ensemble

CollegeBoard Advanced Placement Program

- AP World History
- AP US History
- AP Statistics
- AP Pre-Calculus
- AP Calculus
- AP Biology
- AP English Language
- AP English Literature & Composition
- AP Spanish Language
- AP Studio Art Drawing 3D
- AP Studio Art 2D
- AP Studio Art Drawing

AP Courses

Classes tend to be fastpaced and cover more material than typical high school honors classes.

Students who do well on AP Exams can earn credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college.

AVID



- AVID 09
- AVID 10
- AVID 11
- AVID 12

- Focused on preparing students to become college and career ready
- AVID 9 11 BigFuture, Upward Bound, etc.
- AVID 12 help Seniors with application, FAFSA, HESAA, scholarships
- Closely monitor the students
- AVID celebration each marking period
- End of the year event

2024-2025 PERFORMANCE





















Performances 2025-2026





Winter & Spring Dance Concerts
Winter and Spring Orchestra, Chorus
& Guitar Concerts



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Afterschool Clubs

- A Capella Chorus
- Book Club
- Creative Writing Club
- Dance Club-NHSDA*
- Drama Club
- Jefferson Amped Club
- Jeff SOuL
- Jeff Spirit Club
- Multicultural
- National Honor Society
- Newspaper
- Science Club
- Skills USA Club
- TV Production Club
- Visual Arts Club

Athletics-District Wide



WHAT TO EXPECT IN 9TH GRADE



Transition from middle to high school



More challenging coursework



Introduction to GPA and transcripts



Increased independence and accountability

SCHOOL RULES & EXPECTATIONS

Be on time and attend daily

Follow the dress code (if applicable)

Respect school property and others

Academic honesty and integrity



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Only **9 unexcused absences** are permitted per class.

Exceeding 9 absences will result in possible loss of credits.

We offer Saturday Attendance Recovery for all students.

Students will be required to attend summer school and/or recover the class/es on Saturday or after school.

9TH GRADE ANNEX STUDENT SCHEDULES & EXPECTATIONS

List Schedule 🏂

Ехр	Trm	Crs-Sec	Course Name	Teacher	Room	Enroll	Leave
1-2(A-E)	24-25	N012-34	English I	DeMilia, Alisa Lauren	FJC361	10/11/2024	06/25/2025
3-4(A-E)	24-25	N222-14	Geometry	Betances, Ivelisse	FJC307	10/11/2024	06/25/2025
5(A-E)	24-25	N2726-13	Biology with Lab 5 credits	Saghir, Rubina	FJC309	10/11/2024	06/25/2025
6(A-E)	24-25	N810-378	Physical Education Health I	Rosen, Patricia	FJCGym	10/11/2024	06/25/2025
7(A-E)	24-25	NLUNCH-5	Lunch	Lunch, Teacher	FJCCAF	10/11/2024	06/25/2025
8(A-E)	24-25	N122-11	World History Culture	Varga, Richard	FJC303	10/11/2024	06/25/2025

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Ехр	Trm	Crs-Sec	Course Name	Teacher	Room	Enroll	Leave
1(A-E)	24-25	N120A-125	World History AP	Carnevale, Joseph	FJC360	09/06/2024	06/25/2025
2(A-E)	24-25	N001A-91	AVID 9	Millheim, Timothy	FJC359	09/06/2024	06/25/2025
B(A-E)	24-25	N011-248	English I Honors	Brown, Quiana	FJC301	09/06/2024	06/25/2025
1(A-E)	24-25	N2716-161	Biology Honors 5 credits	Jagot, Sabrina	FJC312	09/06/2024	06/25/2025
5(A-E)	24-25	N810-373	Physical Education Health I	Cohen, Brad	FJCGYM	09/06/2024	06/25/2025
6(A-E)	24-25	N636-82	Drama I	Toll, Sandra	J103	09/26/2024	06/25/2025
7(A-E)	24-25	NLTT-22	Lunch Time Tutoring ARP	Jagot, Sabrina	FJC312	03/10/2025	06/25/2025
7(A-E)	24-25	NLUNCH-5	Lunch	Lunch, Teacher	FJCCAF	09/06/2024	06/25/2025
B(A-E)	24-25	N231-234	Algebra II Honors	Marquez Sotelo, Brenda	FJC305	09/06/2024	06/25/2025

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- 120 Credits
- 4 Years of English and Physical Education,
- 3 years Math, Science
- 3 Years of History
- 2 Years World Language
- 1 Year Visual Art
- CTE Education
- State Assessment
- SAT
- Personal Finance
- 60 Community Service Hours
- FAFSA



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Cohort Year	Credits	Community Service Hours	Testing
9th	30	20	NJSLA (ELA & MATH)
10th	30	15	• PSAT
11th	30	15	NJSLA (SCIENCE)NJGPASAT
12th	30	10	SATNJGPA (if necessary)Portfolios (if necessary)
TOTAL	120	60	

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Classroom Visits

9th	HIB High school expectations	
10th	Graduation requirements Attendance, etc.	
11th	Testing Requirements College Process College Prep Scholars Program SEEDS Candidates SCOIR	
12th	College/Career Readiness Scholarships FAFSA/HESAA	

School Day Trips

- •Steven Institute of Technology
- Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Drew University
- •Rutgers University (Equal Opportunity Fund)
- Rider University
- •HBCU College Fair-Raritan Valley Community College

College Visits

- Berkley College
- Kean University
- New Jersey City University
- Rutgers University Newark Campus
- •The College of New Jersey
- Montclair State University



Instant Decision Day

- Kean University
- New Jersey City University
- Bloomfield College of Montclair State University



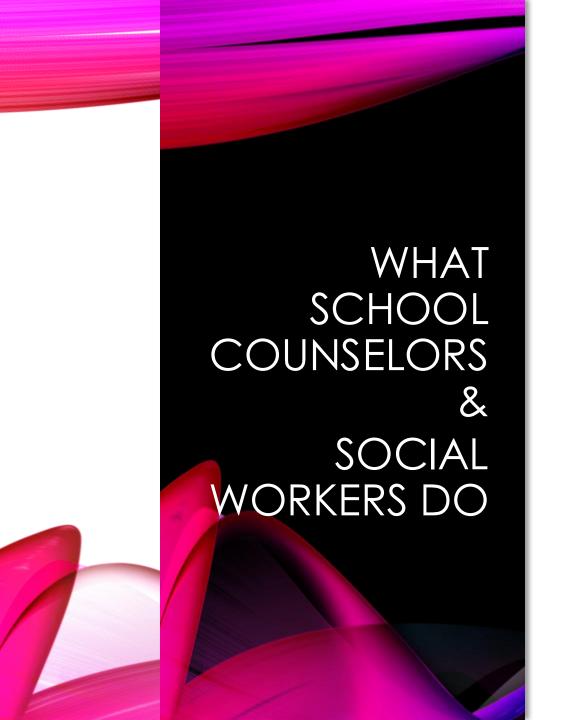


Academic tutoring and help sessions

Counseling and mental health services

ELL and IEP/504 accommodations

Clubs and Activities



Assess students to determine areas they may require help, counseling, or other services and support

Individual, family, and group counselling sessions for students, parents, teachers, and school faculty

Education for parents and school staff regarding student issues, such as bullying, learning difficulties, and peer pressure challenges

Conduct mediation meetings with students having conflicts with other students, teachers, staff

Refer students and parents to community support services and agencies

Advocate on behalf of the school, staff, students, and parents to community services













YES Program

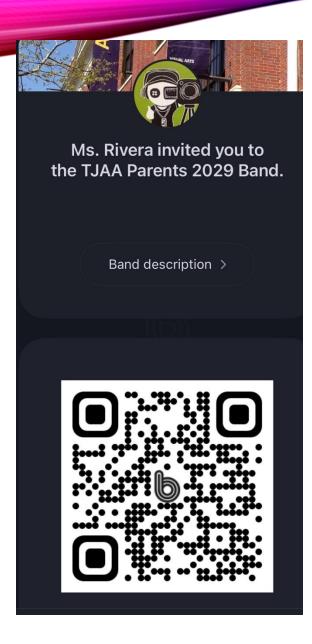
- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Family Services
- Preventative Mental Health
- Pregnancy Support
- Career Counseling
- Learning Support
- Seminar Workshops
- Life Skills Training
- Summer Program: Recreation and Community Service
- Community Linkages:
 Connecting families to
 community base services
 and programs.

Recreation, Trips, And After School Programs

- Summer Program: Recreation and Community Service
- Community Linkages: Connecting families to community base services and programs.

Services Provided

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Family Services
- Preventative Mental Health
- Pregnancy Support
- Career Counseling
- •Learning Support
- SeminarWorkshops
- Life Skills Training



JOIN THE CLASS OF 2029 PARENTS BAND APP

- The Band APP is our way
 of communicating News
 and happenings here at Jefferson.
- Just scan the QR Code and Join.
- LEAVE NOTIFICATIONS ON.
- Get all the news including school closures, special events, and so much more.

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UNIFORM PANTS



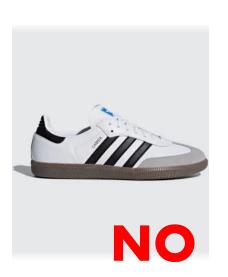












AUDITIONS FOR FRESHMEN FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH IMMEDIATELY AFTER SCHOOL IN RM 22 MAIN BUILDING

- If you would like to be a performer, dancer or singer.
- If you would like to be a backstage crew member.
- If you would like to work on costumes.
- If you would like to work on set design and construction.



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Join

Join the PTA and attend workshops (see Mrs. Rivera)

Volunteer Volunteer opportunities

Stay

Stay engaged and informed





SCHOOL SUPPLIES

General Supplies (for all classes)

- * Backpack or tote bag
- * 3–4 spiral notebooks
- * 2–3 folders or a binder with dividers
- * 2" or 3" binder
- * Loose-leaf lined paper
- * Pens (blue/black)
- * Pencils (#2 or mechanical)
 - + extra lead/erasers
- * Highlighters (assorted colors)
- * Post-it notes
- * Index cards (for studying)
- * Ruler
- * Pencil case or pouch

Stay organized and plan ahead

Ask for help when needed

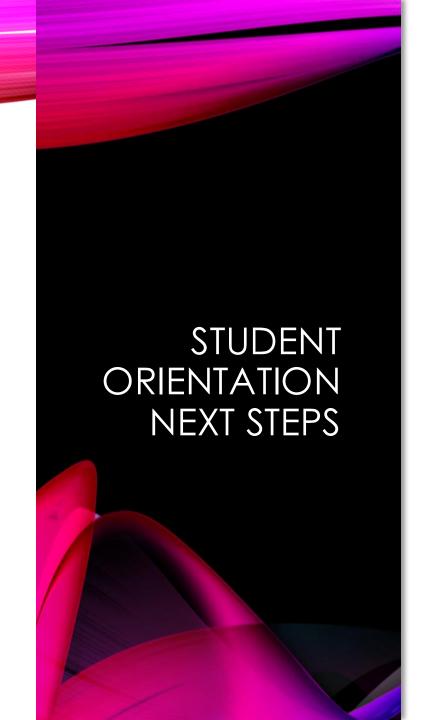
TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FRESHMAN YEAR

Arrive to School on time

Always in Uniform

Make new friends and build connections

Keep a positive attitude



Students transition to Annex/Courtyard

Tour building entrances and key locations

Participate in fun icebreakers with mentors

PARENT AND STUDENTS NEXT STEPS



For Students:

- Exit through the middle doors
- Turn right in the hallway
- Go down one floor
- Exit to the courtyard (main entrance to the annex)
- Participate in fun "Getting to Know You" activities

For Parents:

- Please remain seated for the presentation
- After the presentation, join your child in the courtyard
- You may collect your child and leave from there

Note:

I will be in the **back of the theater** to answer any questions.

You may also ask questions now while students are exiting.



Thank you for joining us!

Any questions?

We're excited to welcome the Class of 2029!



Dr. Mona Wanis, Principal Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy wanismo@epsnj.org

Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness made real for every student through academic and creative excellence.