

**THOMAS JEFFERSON MIDDLE
SCHOOL PARENT/GUARDIAN
HANDBOOK**

2021-2022 Edition

**WELCOME TO THOMAS JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
“JEFFERSON” OR “TJ” FOR SHORT!**

Having a child in middle school can be a bit overwhelming. To help, the TJ Parent Teacher Association (PTA) put together this Parent Handbook for the 2019-2020 school year to give you a brief overview of Jefferson and to try to answer some of the questions that many families have about the school. This handbook is now updated annually for TJMs parents/guardians. While the handbook is not all-inclusive, we hope that it will help answer some basic questions and guide you to other resources for more in-depth information. There is a great deal happening at the school at any given time; the resources in this handbook – especially the Communication section – will help you ensure that you and your student(s) don't miss any important information.

TJMS BASICS

IF YOU ARE NOT FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND NEED HELP WITH TRANSLATION OR INTERPRETATION:

AT THE TOP OF THE JEFFERSON WEBSITE PAGE, THERE IS A LINK TO GOOGLE TRANSLATE (“TRANSLATE” BUTTON) WHICH WILL TRANSLATE THE INFORMATION ON THE PAGE INTO SEVERAL DIFFERENT LANGUAGES INCLUDING SPANISH, AMHARIC, ARABIC, MONGOLIAN AND BENGALI. APS PROVIDES INTERPRETERS FOR SCHOOL EVENTS LIKE STUDENT CONFERENCES. STAFF IN THE TJ MAIN OFFICE CAN HELP ARRANGE INTERPRETERS. AT TJ, MS. IRMA DELEON-VELIZ PROVIDES SPANISH TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION. CONTACT HER AT IRMA.DELEONVELIZ@APSV.A.US OR 703-228-5890

Principal: Ms. Keisha Boggan

**School Hours: 7:50am – 2:24pm
(doors open at 7:40am)**

Early Release School Hours: 7:50am – 11:54am

Office Hours: 7am – 4pm.

Main Office: 703-228-5900

Attendance Line: 703-228-5898, maggie.luu@apsva.us

Registrar: 703-228-5908, ana.mejia@apsva.us

Address: 125 South Old Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22204

School Colors: Blue and Yellow

School Mascot: Yellow Jacket

COMMUNICATIONS FROM SCHOOL

Jefferson Website: You can find the answers to many questions as well as updates on upcoming events on the Jefferson School webpage: <https://jefferson.apsva.us>

School Calendar: At the bottom of the Jefferson homepage you will find a calendar of upcoming events at both the school and APS level. It is a fairly comprehensive calendar of events at TJ as well as the APS and school board calendars. It does not include after school club meetings, ACT II schedules, or sports practices. Press the “view all” button to see a full month of events and scroll through the upcoming months. On the monthly calendar page, you can subscribe to the calendar via the +iCal and +Google links at the top right of the calendar.

Monthly Activities Calendar: In the left-hand column of the Jefferson home page you will find a link to the Monthly Activities Calendar. This calendar has a detailed list of events happening at TJ during and after school including assemblies, field trips, club meetings, and ACT II. The second page of the calendar lists sports practices and games. The calendar is published on a monthly basis and each month is available a few days before the start of that month.

COMMUNICATIONS

FROM SCHOOL CONTINUED

Morning Announcements: Students hear daily announcements during Teacher Advisory period (TA). Announcements include reminders about daily activities and upcoming events and whether it is an A or B day for 6th graders (more information in School Organization). Parents can see the daily announcements by clicking on the “morning announcements” link in the left-hand column of the Jefferson home page.

School Talk Emails, Texts, Robocalls: Principal Boggan periodically (once to twice a month) sends a emails, texts and/or recorded voice message about upcoming events to all parents and guardians who have a phone number on file with APS. The message is first in English, then in Spanish.

PeachJar: Every parent/guardian who has an email listed with APS receives weekly email flyers from Peachjar. Some apply to all APS families and others are specific to TJ families. Monthly activities calendars and flyers for PTA events are distributed through Peachjar. Access previous flyers through the link on the left hand side of the TJ homepage.

Jefferson Student Handbook: Each student has access to the electronic Student Handbook. The handbook contains a great deal of detailed information on many of the topics touched on here as well as many others and is an important resource for parents and students. Electronic copy: [Jefferson Student Handbook](#)

Twitter: The school’s Twitter account is @JeffersonIBMYP. Many staff use Twitter to share photos and details about projects and activities. A list of TJ teacher/counselor/administrator Twitter handles is forthcoming.

COMMUNICATIONS

FROM THE PTA (PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION)

TJMS PTA Website – Learn about the PTA and the value it provides to the Jefferson community, including parent volunteer opportunities, ways to stay informed, monthly meetings, teacher support, Reflections Art Contest, Restaurant Nights, shopping programs, and more at tjmspta.org.

TJMS PTA Buzz Newsletter – The monthly TJMS PTA Buzz email newsletter delivers content by and for parents on topics of interest to Jefferson parents, as well as PTA news and reminders. Sign up for the mailing list using the subscription link provided on the TJMS PTA Communications page at <https://jefferson.apsva.us/pta/communications/> or text JEFFERSONBUZZ to 22828.

TJMS PTA Announcement List – This email list delivers time-sensitive PTA announcements as they arise, as well as an occasional “Friday 5-Minute Read.” Subscribe by sending a blank email message to tjms+subscribe@groups.io. Customize your delivery settings and review past messages in the TJMS PTA Groups.io archive anytime at <https://groups.io/g/tjms>.

Follow TJMS PTA on Twitter – [@tjmspta](https://twitter.com/tjmspta)

Follow and like TJMS PTA on Facebook – [@ThomasJeffersonMSPTA](https://www.facebook.com/ThomasJeffersonMSPTA)

Jefferson Parents Facebook group – Found under the “Groups” menu option on the [public TJMS PTA Facebook page](#), this Facebook group enables parents to talk about issues in a more private setting.

Padres Latinos de T.J. on WhatsApp – This parent-managed WhatsApp community distributes school and PTA announcements in Spanish. Request to join the group by texting or emailing whatsapp@tjmspta.org.

WHO TO CONTACT IF...

Your child is sick or running late:: Call the attendance line: 703-228-5898 or email the attendance secretary, Ms. Maggie Luu, at maggie.luu@apsva.us

You have concerns about bullying, academic struggles, cheating, inappropriate screen use: Contact your child's School Counselor. Each grade is assigned a school counselor. Counselors rotate each year with their assigned grade, so your child will have the same counselor for all three years. Assignments for 2021-2022:

6th Grade - Ms. Susan Russo, susan.russo@apsva.us, 703-228-8779

7th Grade - Dr. Tiffini Woody-Pope, tiffini.woodypoppe@apsva.us, 703-228-5899

8th Grade - Ms. Jasmine Burton, jasmine.burton@apsva.us, 703-228-5864

EL Counselor - Ms. Ana Rodriguez, ana.rodriguez2@apsva.us, 703-228-5871

You need help with food, clothing, or housing: TJ has many resources to help families in need. Contact the TJ School Social Worker, Ms. Elizabeth Brady, for assistance: elizabeth.brady@apsva.us, 703-228-5867

You have concerns regarding bus transportation: Students who live more than 1.5 miles from TJ are eligible for bus transportation. In the last week of August, eligible students will receive a letter that includes their bus route, bus stop, and pickup time. If you have questions or problems with the bus, contact the APS Transportation Call Center: 703-228-8670 (6am–6pm weekdays) or <https://www.apsva.us/transportation-services>

You have questions about the yearbook: The TJ Yearbook is produced by the school (not the PTA). Information on how to buy a yearbook is put out through announcements and the school website. For questions, contact Jeffrey Anderson, jeffrey.anderson@apsva.us.

You need to contact a staff member: Search the TJ Staff Email Directory: <https://jefferson.apsva.us/staff-directory>

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Grade Level Teams: Each student is assigned to an academic team and will take most of their classes from teachers within that team. This creates smaller communities within the school. Teams also have team-building activities and field trips with their teams. Occasionally a whole grade level will participate in the same activity together. Teams may ask for funds at the beginning of the year to go toward team activities.

6th Grade Teams: Owls, Dolphins, Stingrays

7th Grade Teams: Monarchs, Dragons

8th Grade Teams: Gators, Phoenix

School Counselors and Assistant Principals: The School Counselors and Assistant Principals (AP) rotate with their assigned grade level so your child will have the same School Counselor and AP for all three years.

6th Grade

School Counselor: Ms. Susan Russo, susan.russo@apsva.us, 703-228-8779

Assistant Principal: Ms. Diana Jordan, diana.jordan@apsva.us, 703-228-8768

7th Grade

School Counselor: Dr. Tiffini Woody-Pope, tiffini.woodypoppe@apsva.us, 703-228-5899

Assistant Principal: Mr. Robert Hanson, robert.hanson@apsva.us, 703-228-8768

8th Grade

School Counselor: Ms. Jasmine Burton, jasmine.burton@apsva.us, 703-228-5864

Assistant Principal: Mr. Vincent Jarosz, vincent.jarosz@apsva.us, 703-228-8768

English Learners

Counselor: Ms. Ana Rodriguez, ana.rodriguez2@apsva.us, 703-228-5911

Program Counselor

Counselor: Ms. Amelia Black, amelia.black@apsva.us, 703-228-5897

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Principal: Ms. Keisha Boggan, keisha.boggan@apsva.us, 703-228-5900

Director of Counseling: Mr. Dante Hicks, dante.hicks@apsva.us, 703-228-5908

School Social Worker: Ms. Elizabeth Brady: elizabeth.brady@apsva.us, 703-228-5867

School Psychologist: Dr. Tanya Moncrieffe-Heath, tanya.moncrieffeheat@apsva.us

Equity and Excellence Coordinator: Ms. Stephanie Smith, stephanie.smith@apsva.us

School Community Liaison: Ms. Irma Deleon-Veliz, irma.deleonveliz@apsva.us, 703-228-5890

Clinic: Nurse – Ms. Shineca Solomon **Assistant** – Ms. Dailia Orozco, 703-228-5893

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION CONTINUED

Teacher/Advisor Program (TA): Each student is assigned to a TA teacher. Students go to TA for a brief period (40 minutes Block Days and 22 minutes Anchor Days) at the beginning of every day for most of the year. During TA, students listen to morning announcements and receive instruction in notebook organization, time management, productive study habits, note-taking, following directions, test-taking, social emotional learning, IB Learner Profile attributes and IB Approaches to Learning. Students check-in on their grades through TA and TA teachers support students during Student-Led Conferences. Your child's TA teacher may or may not be one of his/her regular teachers. If you have questions about your child's classes or team, contact your child's TA first for information.

English Learners (EL): The English Learners program serves students from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. The EL Program works to ensure that English learners (ELs) attain English proficiency in order to develop high levels of academic achievement. Based on an assessment by the Language Services and Registration Center (LSRC), students are placed in one of the following programs.

ELD 1

ELD 2

ELD 3

ELD 4

EL Resource (ELD Levels 1-4) for students who additionally receive Special Education services, EL instruction is provided through the student's Special Education classes

EL students are also assigned to a grade level team

EL team: <https://jefferson.apsva.us/english-learners/>

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION CONTINUED

Special Education: TJ offers a continuum of Special Education services and placements. To the greatest extent possible and in accordance with the requirements for Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), students with disabilities (SWD) are educated with their non-disabled peers. However, for students who need more specialized instruction, SWD can be educated in any combination of inclusion, co-taught, or self-contained classroom settings. IEP (Individualized Education Program) meetings take place weekly on Thursdays. For more information, contact: Mr. Matthew Gavin, TJMS Special Education Coordinator and/or Mr. Dante Hicks, Director of Counseling Services, or visit: <https://jefferson.apsva.us/special-education-programs/>

Jefferson Garden: The TJ Community garden (<https://jefferson.apsva.us/pta/the-jefferson-garden/>) functions as an outdoor learning classroom and a community service opportunity. In the summer, it's a neighborhood community hub and a Plot Against Hunger for the Arlington Food Assistance Center. If your middle schooler is interested in working outdoors for their community service work at TJ, invite them to come to the garden on Friday afternoons 2:30-4pm (listen for a mention of garden days on morning announcements). It's also a great opportunity for 8th grade community service projects. Parents are invited to volunteer on Friday afternoons or at other times. Enid Dunbar is the staff sponsor for the garden, and Reidy Brown is the PTA sponsor. Questions? Email tjmsoutside@gmail.com or follow on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TJGarden/>.

6th Grade A and B Days: Students in 6th grade have the same schedule in the morning through 6th period every day. In the afternoon, during 6th and 7th periods, they have one set of electives on A days and the other two electives on B days.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION CONTINUED

IB Programme and Service Component: Service to the community is a critical part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Curriculum. Click here for more on service requirements: <https://jefferson.apsva.us/ib/community-project/>

Direct questions about IB to IB Programme Coordinator, Mr. Kip Malinosky 703-228-5911, kip.malinowski@apsva.us. He will provide an overview of the service program during one of the monthly PTA Meetings.

Math Pathways: The math pathways were revised for all Virginia middle schools in 2018. The school counselors recommend which pathway each student should take. Letters of recommendation for your child's level will be sent home before school begins. If you don't agree with the pathway recommended for your child or have questions, contact your child's counselor. The new pathways are described here: <https://www.apsva.us/mathematics/secondary-math-program/course-pathways/>

Gifted Services: Gifted Services Information Night in October will provide in-depth information on how services are provided at TJ. Students identified as gifted in a subject area are grouped together within the regular classrooms. The Resource Teacher for the Gifted (RTG) works with the classroom teachers to provide differentiated instruction for gifted learners. For more information, contact the RTG, Ms. Megan Detweiler, megan.detweiler@apsva.us

Act II Classes: Act II is a graded semester class that is included in a student's schedule as well as on their report card. The classes meet after school on Tuesday and/or Thursday from 2:30-4pm. Students are expected to attend all sessions. Classes are offered in Art, Drama, Chorus, and Technology. Information on which classes are offered each semester will be available on the homepage of the TJ website. Students will have the opportunity to sign up for fall Act II classes a few weeks after the semester has begun by turning in a form to their school counselor. These forms must be signed by the parent/guardian.

Physical Education (P.E.): All students take P.E./Health. P.E. Students will not change into uniforms (shorts and t-shirt) this year due to COVID-19.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION CONTINUED

SOLs: Students take the following Standards of Learning (SOL) tests in the Spring. Scores are mailed to families during the summer.

6th Grade: Reading, Math

7th Grade: Reading, Math, Civics & Economics

8th Grade: Reading, Math, Science, Writing, World Geography

Homework and Homework Assistance: Homework varies by teacher and team. Study Hall is offered from 2:30-3:30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays in the TJMS library. Study Hall is a quiet classroom space for students to work, staffed by teachers who can answer questions or support students in completing homework. Students can attend on an as-needed basis.

High School Credits: A few classes at TJ (including some higher math and language classes) receive high school credit. The credit and grade will appear on your student's high school transcript and be part of his/her Grade Point Average (unless you request otherwise).

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION CONTINUED

Breakfast: The cafeteria will open at 7:20am – 7:40am for students who would like eat before school begins. Staff supervision is provided. **Grab-and-Go** breakfast is available in the main lobby 7:45am – 8:00am for students who arrive to school late.

Lunch: Each grade level has a separate lunch period. Students have the option to go outside for their lunch period to eat and/or play sports. Staff supervision is provided. Students who chose to eat indoors are assigned to a designated area, but not assigned seats. Students

Transportation: With the completed construction of Alice West Fleet Elementary next door, TJMS will reopen the main front door entrance as well as the individual grade level entrances. There is a new bus lane that will serve as the drop-off and pick-up points near the main entrance. In addition, there is a new parent/guardian drop-off and pick-up lane adjacent to Alice West Fleet on S. Old Glebe Road. Students will use the walkways from bus and parent drop-off and pick-up to access their grade level entrances. Bike riders can use the bicycle racks located near the main front entrance to secure bikes. Upon arrival, students will enter the school building according to their grade. At dismissal, students will exit through their appropriate grade level doors.

6th Grade - Door 17

7th Grade - Door 16

8th Grade - Door 15

More information on student arrival/dismissal procedures can be found at:

http://jefferson.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2016/08/2019-08-14_-TJMS_DO-and-PU-procedures_FINAL-submittal.pdf

****Please note: APS is no longer offering centralized “hub” stop locations.**

HOW TO KNOW HOW YOUR CHILD IS DOING IN SCHOOL

ParentVUE (<https://vue.apsva.us/>): Parentvue is an online tool that provides parents/guardians with access to the latest information about your child's attendance and classwork. Families can view class assignments, scores, report card grades, and course history with ParentVUE. This is an extremely helpful way to regularly check to see how your child is doing. The Grade Book page allows you to see if your child is missing homework assignments or tests before it is too late to make them up. Students have access to the same information through their StudentVue accounts.

If you do not have an existing ParentVue account, you should receive a letter with a Parent Account Activation Code from TJ. If you never received the code, you can get a new one from the school registrar Ana Mejia: 703-228-5908, ana.mejia@apsva.us. Once you have the activation code, instructions for getting your account set up can be found at <https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/PVUE-Activate-Account-1.pdf>

Need Help? Jefferson staff will also hold several information sessions (many in languages other than English) to help families set up their accounts.

Basic Guide to Navigating ParentVUE: <http://jefferson.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2016/09/ParentVUE-Information-Lucy-Nguyens-Capstone-Community-Service-Project.pdf>

Canvas: Canvas is the learning management system used by APS for teachers to post academic assignments and resources for students. TJMS teachers also use Canvas to share information with families. [View Canvas resources and tutorials for parents.](#)

Student-Led Conferences: Conferences are held twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. Parents/guardians meet with their child and their child's TA teacher. The conferences are student led, meaning that the student has prepared information to present to their parents/guardians. The TA teacher will help guide the student through his/her presentation. **In 2021-2022, the dates are October 22 and March 4.**

How to sign up: Instructions will be sent out via email on how to electronically schedule your 20-minute conference. To schedule meetings with teachers other than your child's TA, contact the teacher directly. If you need additional assistance, contact your child's counselor.

Interpretation: APS will provide an interpreter for the conference, if needed. You can request an interpreter when you schedule your conference appointment.

TECHNOLOGY

iPads: Every student receives a personal iPad and charger cord. Sixth- and seventh-grade students keep the iPad during the summers and return it to the school at the end of 8th grade. Students use these devices all the time in their classes, do much of their homework on them, and often use them to take tests. Students are expected to charge their iPads at home and bring them to school every day. They will receive a list of guidelines for appropriate use of their iPads and the consequences for misuse. Currently, students are allowed to use their iPads during a portion of their lunch period. For some suggestions on how to manage iPad use at home, see <https://jefferson.apsva.us/technology-resources/digital-learning-initiative-updates/technical-support-for-parents>

Personal phones: Students may bring personal phones to school but are *not allowed to use them during school hours* (including lunch period).

APS Acceptable Use Policy: The APS policy on acceptable use of devices is here: <https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/20-2.210-acceptable-use-networked-info-resources-Policy.pdf>

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Act II Classes: See “School Organization” above

Clubs: TJ offers a great variety of optional afterschool clubs. These include clubs focused on activities (such as chess, and art), service, academic interests, identity and issues, music, and drama. Most meet once a week from 2:30-3:30pm, but some meet more frequently. Clubs are a great way for students to meet others that share their interests or to learn new things. Clubs are listed in the After the Bell booklet, available on the TJ website under the “Activities” tab. Sample 2018-29 booklet: <http://jefferson.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/09/AfterTheBell2018.pdf>

Music & Drama: Band, Orchestra, and Chorus occasionally schedule afterschool rehearsals. Students will receive a schedule from their teacher with all rehearsal dates. Parents with children in the music program will also be invited to sign up for the Charms program, an online resource with a calendar and ways to sign up to volunteer. There are also optional music programs that meet weekly after school such as jazz band and advanced chamber music.

Drama: Drama productions are held twice a year (fall play and winter/spring musical) and have regular rehearsals after school. Students audition for these productions. Typically, there are more roles open for the spring production than the fall production.

Sports Choice: Sports Choice is a voluntary after-school intramural program that meets Monday-Thursday. Students play basketball, volleyball, flag football, soccer and other sports in a non-competitive environment. No registration is needed; students just drop in to the gym after school before 2:35pm.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

Late Buses: Late buses depart at 4:15pm. Only students who stay after school under Jefferson staff supervision for clubs, tutoring, study hall, sports and other school related activities may ride the late bus. Late buses stop at almost every regular bus stop but combine multiple bus routes so will not be identical to the student's regular bus assignment.

Check-In: Extended Day: The Check-In program is Extended Day's after school program for middle school students. The Check-In program provides students with a structured, supervised environment that allows them to participate in a variety of Check-In activities and extracurricular activities at TJ. Students who are enrolled in Check-in must sign-in at Check-in before they go to a school activity. After the activity they must return to the Check-in program. Check-in students, with parent permission, are also able to sign themselves out and leave the school campus. Once a child has signed out for the day, they cannot return to the Check-in program.

Open from 2:30 - 6:00 pm Monday - Friday (September - June); Fee-based program

To register: <https://www.apsva.us/extended-day/registration/>

Jefferson Recreation Center Teen Program: This is a free after school program for teens to have fun, make new friends, and develop skills. Programs can include music, dance, games, cooking, art, sport games, and activities chosen by teen participants. Teens are expected to participate in activities. To register, download the registration form and drop it off in person or email to OFT@arlingtonva.us. Questions? Contact 703-228-7780.

Open from 2:30-6pm Monday - Friday (September - June) Free program

English: <https://parks.arlingtonva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2013/11/Official-Teen-Registration-form.pdf>

Spanish: <https://parks.arlingtonva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2017/03/TeenRegistrationform-Spanish.pdf>

Students who attend other school-sponsored activities after school can enter the Rec Program at 3:30pm with a pass from a teacher or staff member. At 4:15pm, Rec. Center Teen Program late bus riders report to the cafeteria (must have stamp on hand). With parent permission, students can check themselves out but cannot return to the center after they have checked out.

SPORTS

The following sports are offered at TJ. Sports marked with * are no-cut sports; all students may participate:

- Fall: Girls and Boys Tennis, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Boys Ultimate Frisbee*, Girls Ultimate Frisbee*, Cheerleading (tryouts required for Winter)
- Winter: Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Wrestling*
- Spring: Swimming*, Track*

Dates: Tryouts and Game dates will be provided at the beginning of the year through the Monthly Activities Calendar and on the TJ website under the “Activities” tab.

Practice: Most sports have daily practice from 2:30-4pm The swim team and diving team practice at the Washington-Lee pool. Coaches will disseminate schedules. Students eligible for busing can take a late bus home after practice. The late buses leave TJ at 4:15pm

SPORTS

Medical forms: All participants of non-club teams must submit a doctor signed VHSL physical form to Mr. Siegel before attending tryouts or practices. Any physical dated past May 1 will be good through the end of the NEXT school year. Your child can pick up a sports packet from Mr. Siegel or access it here: <http://jefferson.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2017/08/2018sportspacket.pdf>

8th Grade Students: 8th grade students can participate in sports at their “home” high school IF the sport is not offered at the middle school level. Any eighth grader who intends to play a sport at the high school level must also have sports injury insurance or medical insurance. APS offers School Accident Insurance for those students who do not have private insurance. See Mr. Siegel for details and forms.

Transportation to Matches: Transportation is provided by APS to all matches. Transportation home to athletes' bus stops will be provided after matches end. Matches typically begin at 3:15.

Questions? Contact Mr. Jeremy Siegel at (703) 228-5904 or jeremy.siegel@apsva.us

THOMAS JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

The TJMS PTA provides communications, events and programs to inform, connect and support our Jefferson community. We are a membership organization that strives to serve the entire TJMS community, regardless of membership status.

Help us give our kids the best middle school experience possible! Every parent and teacher who participates in the PTA makes us stronger and more vibrant. We invite you to engage with us and get involved in our community through communications, membership, donations, volunteerism and monthly meetings. Learn more about the TJMS PTA below or online at tjmspta.org.

The Value and Importance of the PTA

The PTA fills a vital role as a lifeline connecting families with teachers and each other, creating a stronger school community. It brings value to the TJMS community by:

- Sharing important information with the entire TJMS community through regular communications
- Planning, coordinating and funding student activities
- Promoting community-building for families and teachers
- Showing appreciation of and supporting teachers and staff
- Providing community support for TJMS families in need

Being a part of the PTA also gives families:

- An opportunity to meet one another and stay in closer contact with the life of the school
- An insider's view into school operations and county decisions that affect the school
- The chance to be an advocate for the school within the Arlington community

THOMAS JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

Become a PTA Member – Join or Renew

Your membership dues are an important step in joining our TJMS community, showing your support of PTA initiatives and helping fund our PTA budget. Suggested membership dues are \$15 for families and \$10 for teachers.

A portion of your dues pays for TJMS PTA's membership in county, state and national PTA organizations. Note that the PTA membership term runs from July 1 to June 30 and must be renewed at the start of each school year. Join or renew online via the TJMS PTS Square Site now:

<https://thomas-jefferson-middle-school-pta.square.site/>

Donate

Members of the TJMS community are welcome to submit donations at any point during the school year by using the TJMS PTA Square Site – 100% of your donation will help to support our TJMS community by funding student events and programs, teacher/staff appreciation events, teacher/staff grants and other PTA initiatives.

Regardless of your membership status, we welcome your donation. You can deliver a donation by check (payable to TJMS PTA) to the PTA mailbox in the main office, or if you're already a member, feel free to skip straight to the "Make a Donation" section when making your PTA donation on the TJMS PTS Square Site:

<https://thomas-jefferson-middle-school-pta.square.site/>

Volunteer

It's important to engage with your child's school and the PTA, and it's easy to get involved. The PTA relies on volunteers to help us deliver programs and events to the TJMS community throughout the year – including the PTA Reflections Arts Contest, TJMS Harvest Festival in October, International Night Basket Raffle in April, Bingo Night, Teacher/Staff Appreciation events, the 8th Grade Promotion Reception and more.

We invite you to get involved in promoting the success of our school community. To see what interests you and what works for your schedule, review TJMS volunteer opportunities:

<https://jefferson.apsva.us/pta/officers-and-volunteer-opportunities/>

If you're ready to volunteer now, fill out the Volunteer Interest Form and the PTA will follow up with you:

<https://forms.gle/o1AP2cQZQYcmGbSs7>

THOMAS JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

Monthly Meetings

All TJMS parents and teachers, regardless of membership status, are welcome to attend the monthly meetings of the TJMS PTA during the school year, which are offered via Zoom for the convenience of attendees. In addition to reports on PTA business, each meeting features guest speakers on hot topics of interest to parents, as well as a Town Hall Q&A with Principal Keisha Boggan.

The PTA will announce meeting details, including the Zoom link, in advance via the TJMS PTA Announcement List on Groups.io. To receive timely reminders, please make sure you're signed up for PTA communications. To view the upcoming meeting dates, as well as meeting minutes and video from past meetings, visit the TJMS PTA Meetings page:

<https://jefferson.apsva.us/pta/meetings/>

Restaurant Nights

The TJMS PTA is partnering with many local restaurants during the 2021-2022 school year to support our school and to help build our Jefferson community. You are welcome to either “dine out” at the restaurant or “order in” by getting takeout or delivery – whatever works best for your family. View the full calendar of TJMS Restaurant Nights fundraisers and RSVP in advance to commit to participating:

<https://jefferson.apsva.us/pta/restaurant-nights/>

Shopping Programs

There are several easy ways for you to make money for TJMS automatically every time you shop at your favorite stores! Fundraise for TJMS with every purchase when you use the [TJMS Amazon Smile link](#), scan your grocery receipts for TJMS (using “Jefferson Middle School” ID 578425) through [Box Tops for Education](#), or link your Harris Teeter VIC Card to TJMS through the [Together in Education program](#) (using “Thomas Jefferson Middle School PTA” Code 3905).

Learn more about TJMS PTA's Shopping Programs:

<https://jefferson.apsva.us/pta/shopping-programs/>

**THOMAS JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)
2021-22 TJ PTA OFFICERS**

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