



Edison Township School District

Thomas Jefferson Middle School
450 Division Street, Edison, NJ 08817

Tel: (732) 650-5290
Fax: (732) 650-5295

Antoinette Emden, *Principal*
Kenneth Saggese, *Vice Principal*
Nicholas Zecchino, *Vice Principal*

<https://tjms.edison.k12.nj.us/>
Kimberly McCoy, *Head Guidance Counselor*

August 2020

Dear TJMS Parents/Guardians:

To our new 6th grade parents, welcome to Thomas Jefferson Middle School, home of the Jaguars! For our returning 7th and 8th-grade parents, welcome back to TJ. As you know, Edison School District has elected to begin the school year with a fully remote plan. In September, we will miss welcoming our students in person, hearing their bustling feet in the hallways, and seeing their smiles that mark the enthusiasm of a new school year. However, teachers and staff are prepared to create a supportive learning environment with rigorous academic standards. Our primary goal is to provide learning experiences that cultivate passion, bolsters creativity, innovation, leadership, and self-advocacy. Additionally, teachers will participate in professional development to integrate social and emotional learning that supports students holistically.

This letter includes important information to help your child navigate his/her school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Together, we can make this a rewarding school year for all learners. Please mark your calendar. The first day of school/remote learning is Thursday, September 3, 2020.

First Days of School

During the first days of school, your child's teachers will be contacting them to provide their contact information and vital links to each Google Classroom. Google classroom codes will be sent by the individual teacher so students must check their district email. It is imperative that your child check their email and Google Classroom regularly to stay up to date on assignments and important communications from teachers, counselors, and building administration.

A daily [remote schedule](#) has been developed to allow students to meet with their teachers and classmates. These timeframes have been established to provide your child with daily live instruction while also providing short breaks from screen time during the day. Teachers will take attendance in each class daily so your child must show-up to class on time. Regular attendance is an integral part of your child's academic success.

The parent portal will be open on Wednesday, August 26, 2020. Please visit the portal to review your child's schedule. Parents can track their child's grades, progress, assignments, and attendance online. The parent portal is used to boost student performance by increasing parental awareness. Use this link to learn more about the portal, [Parent Portal FAQ](#).

Technology

Your child's district-issued Chromebook is the device needed to assist with remote learning through completing assignments and staying in contact with their teachers. Therefore, it is important that you encourage proper care of this device. New students will be contacted with an appointment time so they can be provided with a Chromebook.

Insurance: Chromebook Insurance is available for purchase for \$20, which provides coverage for the entire 2020-2021 school year. Typical repair costs for devices without insurance range from \$30-\$200. To purchase insurance, you will need the device's BOE Tag or Serial Number. You may complete the form by clicking [this](#) link.

Repairs: If you need to have your child's Chromebook repaired during remote learning, you will need to complete an online [Repair Ticket](#) and drop the device off at the school. If needed, you may be issued a loaner device to use while your Chromebook is being repaired.

Back to School Night

Back to School Night will take place virtually on September 17, 2020. Parents will receive further information and the appropriate links for Back to School Night in the near future.

6th Grade Information

We are happy to welcome our new 6th grade students to TJMS. In order to familiarize you with TJMS, we have set up a [website](#). On this site, students will find links to explore various things that they'll need to know as they begin their journey into middle school. Take the time to learn about TJMS life, daily expectations, what former 6th graders say about TJMS, and meet some of the TJMS staff.

School Counselors

If your child needs support from a school counselor, please use the following contact information.

Mrs. Kimberly McCoy (grade 6) kimberly.Mccoy@edison.k12.nj.us (908-572-0870)
Mrs. Sara Ward (grade 7) sara.ward@edison.k12.nj.us (732-705-1655)
Mrs. Kathryn Jacobs (grade 8) kathryn.jacobs@edison.k12.nj.us (908-572-0701)

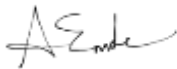
Middle School Sports

Information regarding middle school sports will be made available soon. Thomas Jefferson Middle School offers the following sports: Soccer, Cross Country, Basketball, Wrestling, Baseball, Softball, Track. The Middle School Athletic Director, Mr. Jeff DiCocco, can be reached via email at jeffrey.dicocco@edison.k12.nj.us.

Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)

The purpose of the PTO is to encourage parents to assist with various school activities/services/functions, participate in fundraising activities, foster a community atmosphere, and support the mission and vision of the school/ school district. If you are interested in supporting the PTO, please send me an email (antoinette.emden@edison.k12.nj.us).

Sincerely,



Antoinette Emden
Principal