

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

2026-2027

STUDENT HANDBOOK



Mr. Michael Lonie, Principal
Dr. Andrea Padelsky, Assistant Principal
Mr. Jason Kalish, Assistant Principal

JTHS Vision Statement

The district will be a leader in academic excellence while developing healthy, well-rounded, resourceful students who are positive, contributing members of local and global communities.

JTHS Mission Statement

We strive to foster academic excellence by engaging students in meaningful learning experiences that meet the highest educational and ethical standards, while supporting every learning style – in a caring, inclusive, and collaborative learning environment, supported by the greater community

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Jefferson Township High School Community,

I hope you have enjoyed a well-deserved Summer Recess! On behalf of the entire faculty and staff of Jefferson Township High School, I would like to officially welcome you back for the 2026–2027 school year. While the summer provides all of us with an opportunity to reset and recharge, I am excited to continue working together as we pursue both our individual and collective goals throughout the coming year.

To our returning students, welcome back! Thank you for embracing our shared vision last year and for your continued commitment to educational excellence. Your passion for learning, dedication to our school community, and commitment to one another made last year a tremendous success. I wish each of you continued growth this year and beyond. To the Class of 2027, this is your final chapter at Jefferson Township High School. Make the most of every opportunity, embrace every experience, and cherish the memories you will create throughout your senior year.

To all of our new students, including the Class of 2030, welcome to the Jefferson Township High School family. I look forward to getting to know each of you, watching you grow, and celebrating your accomplishments in the years ahead. While I cannot promise that every day will be easy, I can promise that our faculty and staff will be there to support, encourage, and challenge you every step of the way.

Last year, we embarked on a shared mission to be **ALL IN** for our education, our school, and our community. Throughout the year, you continually impressed me with your commitment to that vision through your passion for Jefferson, your focus on academic achievement, and, perhaps most importantly, your leadership and citizenship. This year, we will continue that work while expanding our focus to being **ALL IN for Jefferson**—celebrating the past, embracing the present, and building an even stronger future for our school community.

My challenge to each of you remains simple: embrace this opportunity for a fresh start and immerse yourself fully in everything Jefferson Township High School has to offer. With the support of your classmates, teachers, counselors, and administrators, challenge yourself to grow each day. Take pride in your accomplishments, lift up those around you, and leave a legacy that makes our entire school community stronger.

Before the school year begins, I ask that you carefully review the updated Student Handbook. It includes revisions to several policies, as well as updated calendars, procedures, and important information that will help you begin the year prepared and informed. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

I am incredibly excited to begin another year together. Thank you, as always, to our teachers, counselors, support staff, students, and families for the role each of you plays in making Jefferson Township High School such a special place. Together, let us continue holding ourselves and one another accountable to being **ALL IN** each and every day, while celebrating the growth, achievements, and successes that we will undoubtedly accomplish together.

Best wishes,



Michael Lonie
Principal

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Christopher Brown – President
Mrs. Christine Mallimo-Orna – Vice President
Mr. Alberto Camacho Mr. Christopher Natale Mrs. Diane Perez
Mrs. Stacey Poulas Mrs. Kristin Ruggiero Mrs. Christine Seugling Mrs. Jill Small

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Scot Burkholder, Superintendent

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Roger Jinks, Jr., Assistant Superintendent

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Rita Oroho Giacchi

HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Michael Lonie, Principal
Mr. Jason Kalish, Assistant Principal
Dr. Andrea Padelsky, Assistant Principal

DISTRICT DIRECTORS/COORDINATORS

Ms. Juceyka Figueroa, Director of Special Services
Mr. Robert Fleming, Technology Coordinator
Mr. Richard Gherardi, Network Administrator
Mr. William Koch, Director of Athletics
Mrs. Heather Racansky, Coordinator of Human & Public Relations
Ms. Vanessa Sanchez, Coordinator of Transportation
Mr. Nicholas Serignese, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds

CONTENT AREA SUPERVISORS

Dr. Maria Dunbar, Supervisor of K-12 Instructional Technology, Fine Arts, K-5 Mathematics, Business
Mrs. Tamarra Fernandez, Supervisor of K-12 Special Education, Gifted Education, Family & Consumer Science
Mr. Christopher Hiben, Supervisor of K-12 Science, 6-12 Mathematics
Dr. Lia (Evagkelia) Lendis Supervisor of K-12 ELA, Media, Technology Education
Mrs. Josephine Ramirez, Supervisor of K-12 Counseling & Student Personnel Services
Mr. Derek Sica, Supervisor of K-12 ESL, Music, Social Studies, World Languages

**JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL
FACULTY/STAFF**

BUSINESS

Kaitlyn Iliff
John Lolli
Jahn Tiger

CHILD STUDY TEAM

Kira Arnold
Katlyn Clark
Vanessa Petersen
Kristin Williams

ENGLISH

Stephen Barbato
Alice Daken
Cassandra Ives
Gabriella Lenahan
Tricia Lindstedt
Colleen Maxwell
Amy Musibay
Joseph Olean
Cara Schwimer
Christopher von Essen

**FAMILY & CONSUMER
SCIENCE**

Candace Margiotta

GUIDANCE

Christine Gonzalez
Heather Halczli
Andrea Leondi
Lyndsay Vesia- SAC

MATHEMATICS

Tanya Hartig
Hong Hu
Aleyna Mannerberg
Molly Neral
Kimberly Serzan
Serina Signorello
William Stager

MEDIA CENTER

Stephanie Vislosky

MUSIC

Chad Flynn
Daniel Gugger

NURSE/TRAINER

Christine Cocca
Danielle DiMaggio
Kendall Machak- ATC

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Katelyn Cannarozzi
Shannon Chapman
Lori Kircher
Justin Pecoraro
Jeremy Thide

SCIENCE

Marc Gaydos
Joseph Guziewicz
Mary Johnston
Kathryn Kula
Sarah Montgomery
Gino Rose
Anthony Szwartz
Heather Varner

SOCIAL STUDIES

Jonathan Boyle
Christopher Eastman
Kasey Farris
Brian Hough
Marguerite Moya
Marcus Thompson

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Kristen Afflerbach
William Chadwick
Lindsay Corter
Joseph DiGennaro
Carrie Hutchinson
Nicole Jahn
Sherry Moore
Ryan Myslinski
Amy Pearce
Megan Piazza
Griffin Reilly

**SPEECH/LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGIST**

Cheryl Spencer

TECHNOLOGY

Aladdin Kazanfer
John Takacs
Jason Nicholas
Joyce Seifried

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Peter DiGennaro
Robert Fleming
Richard Gherardi
Alan Meacham
Rob West

VISUAL ARTS

Kaia Canales
David DeVries
Stephanie Wassmer

WORLD LANGUAGES

Kelsey Crowe
Nanette Diaz
Ali Dockery
Meg Gray-Revoredo
Rachel Lauck
Kathleen von Essen
La Chona Wiseman

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANTS**

Martha Conlon
Dawn Bufardeci
Jennifer Kish
Denise Manger
Jessica Sedlak
Nancy Tasker
Sharon Vollmers
Tracy Williams

INSTRUCTIONAL AIDES

Joe Dyl
Talin Knapik
Betsy Kuntz

Laura Mahoney
Heather Sinisgalli
Amy Szekula
Arline Warncke
Irene Wojcik

JOB COACHES

Randi Adamitis
Shannon Jacobs
Shanna Peters
Patricia Young

CUSTODIANS

Patrick Cryan
Marithza Gil
Gary Pepe
Thomas Ray
Richard Shay
Ron Squires
Marc Stahl

GROUNDNS

Mark Mason
Geoff Miller
Alex Peterson

Michael Stevens

**SECURITY/ HALL
MONITORS**

Michael Danyo
Dylan Feti
Joseph Mustacchio
Mark Novembrino

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2026-2027 School Calendar

September 1	All Staff Orientation
September 2	First Day of School - All Students
September 7	Schools Closed - Labor Day
October 12	Schools Closed - Staff P.D.
November 2-4	Early Dismissal Grades Pre K-6 Only
	Parent-Teacher Conferences Pre K-5 Only
November 5-6	NJEA Convention (Schools Closed)
November 25	Early Dismissal
November 26-27	Thanksgiving Recess (Schools Closed)
December 1	Delayed Opening; PD Staff
December 23	Early Dismissal
December 24-31	Winter Recess (Schools Closed)
January 1	New Year's Day (Schools Closed)
January 18	Martin Luther King; Staff PD (Schools Closed)
February 15	President's Day (Schools Closed)
March 9	Delayed Opening; PD Staff
March 26	Good Friday (Schools Closed)
March 29-31	Spring Break (Schools Closed)
April 1-2	Spring Break (Schools Closed)
May 31	Memorial Day (Schools Closed)
June 14-18	Early Dismissal All Students
June 18	Early Dismissal; Last Day of School; HS Graduation

Emergency closing days may be made up as follows:
5/28, 6/11, 5/21, 5/14, & 5/07

ADVISORY:

The Advisory Program creates an environment for each staff member to mentor/advise a small group of students during their high school years. Adviser assignments remain consistent throughout a student's four years at JTHS, which helps to personalize the school learning environment. Topics will vary monthly by grade level. Think of your advisor as the best person to first approach when you need assistance or help at JTHS. Advisory dates are as follows:

September 2,3,4,8,24	October 8, 22	November 12	December 10
January 21	February 11	March 25	April 29
May 20			

JTHS 2026-2027 BELL SCHEDULES

<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>STANDARD DAY</u>	<u>DELAYED OPENING</u>	<u>EARLY DISMISSAL</u>	<u>ADVISORY</u>	<u>ALL CLASSES MEET</u>
Teacher Sign-in	7:00	9:00	7:00	7:00	7:00
Student Arrival	7:05	9:05	7:05	7:05	7:05
Warning Bell	7:17	9:17	7:17	7:17	7:17
HR	7:20-7:26 (6)		7:20-7:27 (7)	Advisory: 7:20-7:32 (12)	7:20-7:29 (9)
A	7:30-8:23 (53)	9:20-9:57 (37)	7:31-8:06 (35)	7:36-8:28 (52)	7:34-8:12 (38)
B	8:27-9:20 (53)	10:00-10:35 (35)	8:10-8:45 (35)	8:32-9:24 (52)	8:16-8:54 (38)
C	9:24-10:17 (53)	10:38-11:13 (35)	8:49-9:24 (35)	9:28-10:20 (52)	8:48-9:36 (38)
Additional AM class (only when all classes meet)					9:40-10:18 (38)
Lunch/Academic 1 Lunch/Academic 2	10:20-10:45 10:45-11:10	11:16-11:41 11:41-12:06	9:28-9:53 9:53-10:18	10:23-10:48 10:48-11:13	10:22-10:47 10:47-11:12
D	11:13-12:06 (53)	12:09-12:44 (35)	10:22-10:57 (35)	11:16-12:08 (52)	11:16-11:54 (38)
E	12:10-1:03 (54)	12:47-1:22 (35)	11:01-11:36 (35)	12:12-1:04 (52)	11:58-12:36 (38)
F	1:07-2:00 (53)	1:25-2:00 (35)	11:40-12:15 (35)	1:08-2:00 (52)	12:40-1:18 (38)
Additional PM class (only when all classes meet)					1:22-2:00 (38)
Teacher Dismissal	2:15	2:15	12:30	2:15	2:15

JTHS ROTATIONAL DAYS

JTHS Rotational Days 2026-2027																			
September		October		November		December		January		February		March		April		May		June	
9/2	ALL	10/1	4	11/2	4	12/1	1	1/1	OFF	2/1	4	3/1	3	4/1	OFF	5/3	2	6/1	2
9/3	1	10/2	1	11/3	1	12/2	2	1/4	1	2/2	1	3/2	4	4/2	OFF	5/4	3	6/2	3
9/4	2	10/5	2	11/4	2	12/3	3	1/5	2	2/3	2	3/3	1	4/5	2	5/5	4	6/3	4
9/7	OFF	10/6	3	11/5	OFF	12/4	4	1/6	3	2/4	3	3/4	2	4/6	3	5/6	1	6/4	1
9/8	3	10/7	4	11/6	OFF	12/7	1	1/7	4	2/5	4	3/5	3	4/7	4	5/7	2	6/7	2
9/9	4	10/8	1	11/9	3	12/8	2	1/8	1	2/8	1	3/8	4	4/8	1	5/10	3	6/8	3
9/10	1	10/9	2	11/10	4	12/9	3	1/11	2	2/9	2	3/9	1	4/9	2	5/11	4	6/9	4
9/11	2	10/12	PD	11/11	1	12/10	4	1/12	3	2/10	3	3/10	2	4/12	3	5/12	1	6/10	1
9/14	3	10/13	3	11/12	2	12/11	1	1/13	4	2/11	4	3/11	3	4/13	4	5/13	2	6/11	ALL
9/15	4	10/14	4	11/13	3	12/14	2	1/14	1	2/12	1	3/12	4	4/14	1	5/14	3	6/14	FINALS
9/16	1	10/15	PSAT	11/16	4	12/15	3	1/15	2	2/15	OFF	3/15	1	4/15	2	5/17	4	6/15	FINALS
9/17	2	10/16	1	11/17	1	12/16	4	1/18	PD	2/16	2	3/16	2	4/16	3	5/18	1	6/16	FINALS
9/18	3	10/19	2	11/18	2	12/17	1	1/19	3	2/17	3	3/17	3	4/19	4	5/19	2	6/17	FINALS
9/21	4	10/20	3	11/19	3	12/18	2	1/20	4	2/18	4	3/18	4	4/20	1	5/20	3	6/18	ALL
9/22	1	10/21	4	11/20	4	12/21	3	1/21	1	2/19	1	3/19	1	4/21	2	5/21	4		
9/23	2	10/22	1	11/23	1	12/22	4	1/22	2	2/22	2	3/22	2	4/22	3	5/24	1		
9/24	3	10/23	2	11/24	2	12/23	ALL	1/25	MID	2/23	3	3/23	3	4/23	4	5/25	2		
9/25	4	10/26	3	11/25	3			1/26	MID	2/24	4	3/24	4	4/26	1	5/26	3		
9/28	1	10/27	4	11/26	OFF			1/27	MID	2/25	1	3/25	1	4/27	2	5/27	4		
9/29	2	10/28	1	11/27	OFF			1/28	MID	2/26	2	3/26	OFF	4/28	3	5/28	1		
9/30	3	10/29	2	11/30	4			1/29	3			3/29	OFF	4/29	4	5/31	OFF		
		10/30	3									3/30	OFF	4/30	1				
												3/31	OFF						

**** In the event of an emergency closing day, the schedule will continue as listed. Days will NOT be shifted. ****

GOOD CITIZENS AND PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY

Students at Jefferson Township High School are expected to be caring, trustworthy and responsible young citizens. They demonstrate these attributes by arriving at school and class on time, being prepared for class with assignments and materials, fully participating in class and adhering to school/class rules and procedures. Every student has the right to be treated with respect and courtesy, to learn without disruption and to feel safe at school. Likewise, all students will treat all members of the school community with respect.

The entire Jefferson Township community strives to create a school environment that is safe for all students. All members of the community strive to make the school a safe and drug free environment. Students who commit an offense that is characterized as severe misconduct will be suspended from school (Policy 5600) Students who bully or harass another student will be penalized accordingly (Policy 5512).

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Students should strive for perfect attendance. Students need to be prepared for post-secondary institutions and the workplace. Employers expect employees to arrive on time and to be present every day. JTHS students are expected to arrive at school and to each class on time and be present every day. Students who accrue more than sixteen **unexcused** absences from school for a full-year course, or more than eight unexcused absences from a semester course, will not be granted credit for courses (Policy 5200)

The following absences are considered excused absences:

- Disabling illness (verified by a physician note) **
- Recovery from an accident **
- Sent home by school nurse and the nurse indicates the next day should be excused
- Medical visit*; The school has the right to verify the validity of a medical note
- Driver's license exam*
- Required court attendance*
- Death of a family member
- Religious observance NJSA 18A:36-14-6
- College visitations /interviews* (limited to a maximum of three days per year for 11th & 12th graders)
- Employment interviews*
- Good cause acceptable to the principal
- Suspension

*Notes on original official letterhead from physician, court, college, or employer to be submitted for visit, appearance or exam.

** Physician's clearance needed before returning to school/activity.

Late to School: Students are expected to arrive at school on time for attendance, morning announcements and to receive personalized items such as passes or reminders.

- At the sixth cumulative late arrival to school per marking period, two office detentions will be assigned, and each tardy arrival thereafter (6-9).
- At the tenth cumulative late arrival to school per marking period, and each tardy thereafter (10-15), an in-school suspension and parent meeting will be assigned.
- At the sixteenth cumulative late arrival to school per marking period, an out-of-school suspension and parent re-entry meeting will be assigned and other appropriate actions may be taken.

The Following Absences Are Considered Unexcused Absences:

- All absences that do not fall into the excused category.
- Vacation and personal trips
- Individual class cuts
- Late to school
- Early dismissals (see below)
- Three unexcused late arrivals to class of less than ten-minutes equals one unexcused absence
- Late to class more than ten-minutes equals one unexcused absence
- Being dismissed early (see below "Early Dismissal Procedures") and missing ten or more minutes of class time
- Driving Lessons **are not** an excused absence and **should not** be scheduled during the school day

Late to Class: Students must arrive at class on time.

- At the sixth cumulative late arrival to class, two office detentions will be assigned , and for each tardy arrival thereafter (6-9).
- At the tenth cumulative late arrival to class, and each tardy thereafter (10-15), an in-school suspension and parent meeting will be assigned.
- At the sixteenth cumulative late to class, an out-of-school suspension and parent re-entry meeting will be assigned and other appropriate actions may be taken.

Early Dismissal Procedures:

1. Students **MUST** submit a written note signed by a parent/guardian to the main office upon arrival to school.
2. Only written notes will be accepted for early dismissal. The office will **NOT** accept phone calls, emails, and/or facsimile transmissions (faxes) for early dismissals.
3. Students with approved dismissal requests will receive a pass to leave class.
4. The student reports to the main office for parental/guardian pick up and scans out of school on a laptop.
5. Classes will not be disturbed to call a student who did not submit a request to leave early.
6. Student drivers must follow the same procedures above, including reporting to the main office at the time of their dismissal so that they can be 'signed out'. Once 'signed out', the student will be dismissed to the parking lot.
7. Student drivers who leave school early without proper permission will lose campus parking and receive appropriate discipline.

Truancy is a student's deliberate and willful absence from school or class. Charges will be filed with the police and the Division of Child Protection and Permanency must be notified. Although this can be done at any time, by state law, the school must file truancy when this occurs ten or more times for any child that is between six and sixteen years of age.

For unexcused absences of ten (10) or more, the student, between the ages of six (6) and sixteen (16) inclusive, is truant pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A 38-27 and the school district shall:

1. Make a mandatory referral to the court program required by the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts.
2. Make a reasonable attempt to notify the student's parent or guardian of the mandatory referral.
3. Continue to consult with the parent or guardian and the individual agencies to support the student's return to school.
4. Cooperate with law enforcement and other authorities and agencies, as appropriate.

It is important that your child attend school. The need for your child to be in school to complete the state-mandated attendance policy is imperative.

Special Excuse from a Course of Study, Program, or Class: As per BOE Policy 5250, a student will be excused from any part of the instructions in health education, family life education, sex education, or instruction that includes dissection of animals that the parent or legal guardian of the student or the adult student finds morally, conscientiously, or religiously offensive. A request for excusal must be presented in a signed statement and submitted to the Superintendent or designee.

An excused student shall be assigned to an alternate program of independent study on a substitute topic within the health education, family life education, or sex education program. The parent's or legal guardian's right of excusal applies to any alternate program as well.

Absence During Exams: Make up exams will be provided for those students who have **excused** absences. Unexcused absences from exams will result in a zero for that exam.

Absence from Physical Education Classes: Medical notes from a physician must be submitted to the school nurse on the doctor's original letterhead stating the reason and length of time the student cannot participate in physical education classes. This note must be provided on the first day of the illness or injury. The nurse

reviews the information and notifies the physical education supervisor/teacher. Students, unless told otherwise, should continue to report to their scheduled physical education class. Physical education teachers may assign different tasks, assignments or projects to make up for the lack of participation due to illness or injury.

Attendance for Co-Curricular Activities:

Students must be in attendance for a *minimum* of three hours on the day of an activity. Athletes arriving to school late without an excuse must sign in before 11:00 am in order to participate in athletic activities.

Pre-excused absences or special circumstances may be approved by the principal or designee. Students who are suspended may not participate in, or attend, school-sponsored athletic events or extra-curricular/co-curricular activities.

HEALTH OFFICE

The health office provides several services for JTHS students. All students must sign the logbook upon entering the nurse's office and/or scan in using the electronic system.

Health/Wellness Records/Screening: Our health office ensures that all students meet the State of New Jersey immunization requirements, as well as standards for good hearing/vision. The following screenings are scheduled:

- Physical exam
- Blood pressure
- Scoliosis
- Vision
- Hearing
- Tuberculosis for students entering from out of state.

Medications: When possible, medication should be timed to be taken at home. The New Jersey State Department of Education and district policy and regulation (5330) **prohibits** students from carrying any medications on the bus or into the school. The only exceptions are medications approved for self-administration such as, but not limited to, inhalers and Epipens.

- Parent/guardian must provide a written request for the administration of medication.
- Parent/guardian signs a self-administration form for those who need to use an inhaler or Epipen.
 - ***No medication, including “over-the-counter” medicine, will be dispensed unless the following is provided:***
 - An original written order from the prescribing physician including over-the-counter medications such as cough drops, Tylenol, etc. It must include the diagnosis, name of the medication, dosage and time to be given. If an inhaler or Epipen, a student can carry and self-administer with completion of the appropriate documentation.
 - All medications must be in the **ORIGINAL PHARMACY CONTAINER** properly labeled for the student. Ask your pharmacist for the medication to be divided into two bottles completely labeled: one for home and one for school.
- **Parent/Guardian must bring the medication to the health office.**
- **Action Plans:** Parents of students who have illnesses such as, but not limited to, asthma, epilepsy, or anaphylaxis that require specific steps to be taken in the event of a seizure, attack, or reaction must provide the school with an emergency action plan. These are completed by your physician and brought to the health office at the start of the school year.

- **Physical Education Exemption/Re-entry** Students who need to be excused or re-enter gym classes should bring their doctor's note to the health office. All other excuses from school or re-entry notes go to the counseling office.
- **Student Illness.** Students who feel ill during the school day should inform their teacher who will give them a pass to the nurse. The nurse will inform the parent/guardian that a student needs to leave school. Parents sign out and pick-up ill students through the health office.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

The mission of the JTHS Guidance and Counseling department is to provide an integrated and systemic means to address the social, academic, and career needs of all students. JTHS promotes a supportive learning environment where every student is challenged, inspired, and empowered to cultivate the intellectual curiosity, skills, and knowledge needed to become responsible citizens. The guidance program is an integral part of the school's overall educational environment.

Guidelines:

- All students must sign the logbook upon entering guidance and/or scan in using the electronic system.
- In order to meet with a school counselor or a case manager, students should visit guidance before school, after school, or during their lunch/academic or study period. If the counselor or case manager is not available, the student is advised to complete a request for a conference form. The counselor will prepare a pass with the date and time of the scheduled visit and give it to the student's homeroom teacher the following morning. If you have an emergency or are in a crisis, please inform the secretary who will find an appropriate staff member for you to speak with immediately.
- Should a parent or student wish to contact a member of the Child Study Team, the student or parent should contact the case manager to schedule an appointment.
- Parents, guardians, and students seeking specific information regarding guidance center services should visit the guidance and counseling website.

Working Papers: New Jersey has changed the process for students to obtain working papers. Everything can be completed online. Students should go to "myworkingpapers.nj.gov" or come to the main office and scan the QR code that is on the poster.

Morris County School of Technology: MCST is offered to all students in grades 11 and 12 on a shared time basis. Students are selected by the technical school administration through an application process that can include an interview, evaluation of academic records, standardized testing, and, in the case of commercial art, portfolio evaluation. In conjunction with the course selection process for the next school year, interested students should discuss the application process with their school counselor.

Project Acceleration: Since 1978, Project Acceleration, a concurrent enrollment program within the College of Arts and Sciences at Seton Hall University, has allowed high school students in New Jersey and New York to get a head start on their university careers. Over the course of their high school career, students can earn college credits from Seton Hall University for approved courses taken in their secondary schools. The college credits earned through Project Acceleration are accepted at more than 200 colleges and universities. There are currently 65 high schools offering Project Acceleration courses and approximately 2500 students participate each year. For information regarding this program, students should see their school counselor.

Military Release of Information: In accordance with proposed Board of Education policy, a Directory of Student Information consisting of names, addresses and phone numbers of all juniors and seniors will be

established each school year. This information will be released upon request to educational, occupational and military recruiters unless the principal receives written instructions from a parent/guardian or an adult student advising us they wish to be excluded from this directory. The basis for this request is the **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001**. This act also allows parents/guardians and secondary students the right to choose not to be included in such a directory. A letter explaining rights of exclusion is included in the information mailed home to the parents of junior and senior students at the start of school.

High School Marking Period Schedule:

Marking Period	Marking Period Dates	Mid-Point of Marking Period	Begin Input of MP Grades	Grade Input Closes for MP Grades	Verification Sheets Due	Portal* Report Card Opens	Number of Days
1	09/02/2026 to 11/10/2026	10/05/2026	10/27/2026 12:01 AM	11/13/2026 11:59 PM	11/16/2026 12 Noon	11/18/2025 12:01 AM	46
2	11/11/2026 to 01/28/2026	12/15/2026	01/15/2027 12:01 AM	02/03/2027 11:59 PM	02/04/2027 12 Noon	02/08/2027 12:01 AM	46
Midterms: January 25, 26, 27, 28, 2027							
3	01/29/2027 to 04/13/2027	03/02/2027	03/23/2027 12:01 AM	04/16/2027 11:59 PM	04/19/2027 12 Noon	04/21/2027 12:01 AM	46
NJGPA Testing (ELA & Math): TBD							
4	04/14/2027 to 06/18/2027	05/13/2027	06/07/2026 12:01 AM	06/18/2027 12:30 PM	6/18/2027 1:30 PM	06/25/2026 12:01 AM	48
NJSLA Testing (ELA, Math, and Science): TBD							
Final Exams: June 14, 15, 16, 17, 2027							

***Note: Final Exams are early dismissal/half days for all high school students. Attendance at all exams is required and students must stay in class for the entire examination period.**

All absences due to illness must be verified with a doctor's note.

Any absence from school will be unexcused unless verified by a doctor's note or defined as excused by policy 5200 (Attendance). Any unexcused absence will result in a grade of "0" on the final exam.

All makeup final exams will be given on Friday, June 18, 2027, in the media center.

Senior Final Exam Exemption:

A student is exempt from his/her final exam if, and only if, the answers to **ALL** three questions are yes.

1. Is the student a senior?
2. Does the student have an “A” average in the fourth marking period?
3. Does the student have an overall “A” average for the four marking periods? *Note: Seniors enrolled in the Seton Hall Project Acceleration program must complete the final exam in order to receive college credit from Seton Hall University. This may also apply to students wishing to receive concurrent credits with other colleges and universities.*

Graduation Requirements: Jefferson Township High School is a comprehensive high school offering a variety of programs in both college preparation and vocational studies. Electives are also available in art, music, family and consumer science, and industrial arts. In order to receive credit for a course, a student must meet all course requirements, including attendance, course assignments, class participation, and successful achievement. Credits may be denied if a student fails to meet any or all of these requirements. **Extra help is extended in all subjects upon request.** Please refer to the JTHS Program of Studies for specific information regarding graduation requirements.

Grading System: Grades are recorded in an alpha-numeric, plus/minus system. Not only does this system give students and parents more accurate feedback on student progress, but it also further delineates the performance of students based on a more rigorous schedule and within a grade category.

All course grading at JTHS are calculated as follows:

Full Year Courses: Each marking period = 22.5% of final course grade
 Mid-Term Exam (at the end of the second marking period) = 5% of final course grade
 Final Exam = 5% of final course grade

Semester Courses: Each marking period = 45% of course grade
 Final exam = 10% of course grade (can be mid-term at the end of the quarter and final at the end of the semester as per teacher each exam would then be 5% of the grade).

The numerical equivalents are as follows:

Grades and Quality Points

Grade	Range	Standard/CP	Honors	AP
A+	97-100	4.3	4.8	5.3
A	94-96	4.0	4.5	5.0
A-	90-93	3.7	4.2	4.7
B+	87-89	3.3	3.8	4.3
B	84-86	3.0	3.5	4.0
B-	80-83	2.7	3.2	3.7
C+	77-79	2.3	2.8	3.3
C	74-76	2.0	2.5	3.0
C-	70-73	1.7	2.2	2.7
D	65-69	1.0	1.5	2.0
F	Below 65	0	0	0
W/P				

P				
W/F				
LC		0	0	0

W/P–Withdrawn Passing **P**–Effort Passing **W/F**–Withdraw Failing **LC** Loss of Credit

Note: Students that are on home instruction for 45 or more school days for a school year will receive pass/fail grades for all courses.

Honor Roll:

Jefferson Township Public Schools have identified the achievement of academic excellence as a district priority. JTHS recognizes student achievements based on the sum of all grades the student earns during each marking period. There are two levels of honor roll:

High Honors: a grade of “A” or better in all subjects. (90% or better in all subjects)

Honors: a grade of “B-” or better in all subjects. (80% or better in all subjects)

Any grade below a B-, including incomplete grades in any subject, will render a student ineligible for any honor roll. The honor roll will be calculated two weeks after the completion of each marking period and will be posted in the high school.

SUMMA Award

Seniors who have a weighted GPA of 4.0 or higher are eligible for the SUMMA Award which is given by the Jefferson Township Board of Education. Student cumulative averages will be calculated at the end of the seventh semester.

President’s Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement

The President’s Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement is awarded each year to students in all grade levels who maintain a cumulative unweighted average of 3.85 or higher on a 4.3 scale.

Falcon Scholar with Distinction: Weighted GPA 4.25 and above

The Falcon Scholar with Distinction is awarded each year to students in grades 9-11 who have a weighted GPA 4.25 and above.

Falcon Scholar: Weighted GPA 4.00 and below 4.25

The Falcon Scholar is awarded each year to students in grades 9-11 who have a weighted GPA of 4.00 and below 4.25.

Loss of Course Credit/Failure:

Parents/guardians should request a conference regarding all failures. For the first three marking periods, all incomplete grades must be made up within two weeks after the end of that marking period. A grade of "F" will replace the incomplete after the two-week deadline. All work must be completed for the fourth marking period before final exams take place. If mitigating circumstances prevail, an extension of time may be granted by the administration. Loss of credit will be issued if a student exceeds the number of unexcused absences in a course.

Course Changes: Every attempt is made to place the student in each course he/she requests. However, the volume of student requests or classroom availability may make it necessary to place the student in an alternate choice. The ability to honor requests is determined by the number of available seats in each class. It is important to select alternative courses carefully.

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LEVEL CHANGE, ADD/DROP and WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

Non-Honors and Non-AP Elective Courses: Providing that space is available, students may change their non AP/Honors electives until they receive their final schedules on the opening day of school. Once final schedules are distributed, students must remain in their courses until the add/drop period. During the first full week of classes in September (9/14-9/18), students may change elective courses without penalty, provided there is space in a given elective. Students cannot change elective courses after this add/drop period. After this add/drop period, students wishing to withdraw from a course must follow the withdrawal procedures below.

Honors and AP Elective Courses: Students may not add or drop any AP or Honors elective courses between the June 1 deadline, and the add/drop period. During the add/drop period, students cannot add an AP or Honors elective class, but they can replace an AP or Honors elective class with a non-AP or Honors elective should space be available.

Withdrawal Procedures: Courses dropped after the add/drop period will be noted on the report card and transcribed as either WF (withdraw fail) or WP (withdraw pass). No credit is awarded and WP/WF is not calculated into the overall GPA. Please keep in mind that all students must carry 35 credits. This means that if a student is only carrying 35 credits, the student may not drop any classes after the Drop/Add period. After the aforementioned add/drop period, students may only replace an elective course with a non-credited study hall.

Changing Course Levels of the Same Course:

Students who would like to take a course at a higher level than what is recommended need to complete the Level Change Request Form **prior to June 1** for the following school year. (Level Change forms due no later than 11:59 pm on May 31st).

At the end of the first marking period a student may request to change to a lower level of the same course. That is, the course must be of the same number of credits and the same general curriculum, i.e. Advanced Placement to Honors, or Honors to CP if there is another level class available. **This request needs to be made within 5 days of the end of the first marking period**, and in consultation with and approved by the department supervisor. If a student drops to a lower level of a course, the first marking period grade goes along with the student to that new level and is factored in as part of the final grade for that course with the corresponding new course weight for all four marking periods. Only students with extraordinary circumstances may move to a higher level course at the end of the first marking period with the approval of the department supervisor and vice principal. **If approved, any changes in schedule can only be made after the corresponding Marking Period 1 grade has been posted. Once the first marking period window has passed, no further level change requests will be accepted.**

NOTES:

- *Students withdrawing from or dropping a course before its completion lose eligibility for summer school or credit recovery programs for that course.*
- *Schedule changes may only be accommodated if there is room in the courses impacted by the change.*
- *Students may not withdraw (WF/WP) from a course after the midpoint of the course. (End of first or third marking period for half-year classes and end of the second marking period for full-year classes.)*
- *Course changes based on teacher changes or preferences will not be honored*

STUDENT SCHEDULING TIMELINE

January–March	Student course selection and advisement period Parents and students will receive the prioritized course requests that students are submitting. Parents are requested to review the prioritization of courses via email sent to them and contact their counselor within three (3) business days should they wish to make changes.
May 31 petitions	Last day to submit requests for a level change or AP/Honors course
June 1	Applications for Semester 1 Independent Study are due
August 15 Opening Day	Students receive course list via Parent Portal Opening Students receive final schedules (Freshmen receive their final schedules during Freshman orientation.)
First Full Week in Sept.	Drop-Add period due for all courses
End of First MP be considered	Quarter Level change requests for CP, H and AP placement courses will be considered
December 1	Applications for Semester 2 Independent Study are due.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism/Cheating

JTHS stresses the important lessons students learn when they complete their work with integrity and fidelity. These lessons include, but are not limited to, the proper way to research, think critically, write, design and deliver presentations, and manage time. As such, our school recognizes that dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is unacceptable. Any act of dishonesty reflects upon the individual and affects the entire school community. All work must be the student's own work and the student should develop the habits of academic integrity that involve acknowledging one's sources and assistance received. Dishonesty includes cheating in any form. Plagiarism is the act of intentionally or unintentionally treating work done by someone else, or via artificial intelligence (e.g. ChatGPT, Google Bard, etc.), as though it were your own.

Plagiarism or cheating of any form (including the inappropriate or unauthorized use of artificial intelligence, "AI", to complete assignments) is a serious offense and will result in academic and disciplinary consequences (see Disciplinary Action Chart at the end of the handbook). In addition, students who commit any act of academic dishonesty, whether it is plagiarism, submitting someone else's work as their own, copying answers, etc., will be recommended to be ineligible for consideration to be a part of The National Honor Society or any of the subject area honor societies based on the individual society's bylaws. If a student commits an act of academic dishonesty and that student is already an honor society member, it will be recommended that the student's membership be revoked pending a due process hearing outlined by the individual society's bylaws.

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Proof of Process

The framework below relies on the student's ability to show proof of process for all class assignments. This includes evidence demonstrating how a student developed an assignment over time. This may include notes, outlines, drafts, research, revisions, calculations, revision history, or other documentation that demonstrates authentic learning and appropriately disclosed use of instructional supports, including artificial intelligence when permitted. When an assignment is flagged for improper use of AI and/or plagiarism, it is the student's responsibility to provide the aforementioned documentation to their teacher. Please note that if the student is unable to show proof of process for any given assignment, the investigation must proceed under the assumption that the submitted work was not original.

Guidelines

1. Ethical Use

- **Honesty and Integrity:** Students must use AI tools honestly and not for deceptive purposes. Plagiarism or using AI to generate content that is presented as the student's own work is prohibited.
- **Transparency:** When AI tools are used to assist in creating assignments, students must disclose this use to the teacher.
- **Citation:** Proper citation techniques will be taught to students so that proper credit could be given to AI Tools

2. Educational Purposes

- **Learning Enhancement:** AI should be used to support learning objectives, such as improving writing skills, conducting research, or gaining a deeper understanding of literature.
- **Critical Thinking:** Students should engage critically with AI outputs, verifying information, and using AI as a tool rather than a crutch.

3. Privacy and Data Protection

- **Personal Information:** Students should not input personal information or sensitive data into AI tools.
- **Data Security:** Only approved AI tools vetted for security and privacy compliance should be used in the classroom (examples include ChatGPT, Google Genesis, Grammarly, etc.).

4. Respectful Use

- **Appropriate Content:** AI tools should not be used to generate or disseminate inappropriate, offensive, or harmful content.
- **Respect for Others:** AI should not be used to create content that disrespects or harms others, including classmates, teachers, or other individuals in the learning community. This includes intentionally creating and/or doctoring any image or likeness of a student or staff member using an AI tool.

5. Supervision and Approval

- **Assignment Specifications:** Teachers will provide specific guidelines on how AI tools can be used for each assignment. Teachers will also indicate to students what degree of accessibility (if any) that students can use AI tools (on most assignments).
- **Teacher Oversight:** All AI usage must be under the supervision of the teacher whenever possible using school-issued devices. Any new AI tools must be approved by the teacher before use. Guidelines governing use of personal devices are outlined below.

6. Use of School-Issued Devices vs. Personal Devices

- **School-Issued Devices:** School devices often have monitoring tools or restrictions (like GoGuardian) that make it easier to see what tools you used while working. Beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year, students are prohibited from using their own personal devices, including personal laptops, during the school day. If a student chooses to complete an assignment at home using a personal device, it's up to the student to prove that work is original, which can be challenging. Please note that if submitted work shows evidence of AI usage, you might not have the same records or protections that a school device provides to back up your claim.

When a student is suspected of plagiarism and/or using AI inappropriately, a complete and thorough investigation will be conducted by the teacher, in collaboration with members of administration, into the assignment in question. As part of the investigation, the teacher/administrator may use, but is not limited to, the following resources: GoGuardian, Revision History, AI/Plagiarism Detectors, a request for proof of process, and the oral defense questions outlined below.

Non-Timed and Non-Exam Scenarios

1. First Violation:

- **Action:** Formal meeting between the teacher and the student(s) involved.
- **Impact:** Option to redo the assignment for 1/2 credit; building administrator or curriculum supervisor will place student's name on JTHS Plagiarism Tracking spreadsheet; documentation in Real Time.
- Student(s) will receive disciplinary consequences at the discretion of building administration commensurate with the severity of the infraction.
- **Note:** Teacher will contact home to notify parent(s) of the result of the meeting; teacher will email building administration and curriculum supervisor.
- The infraction will be reported to honor society advisors, which may impact current membership and/or future acceptance based on the bylaws of the individual honor society.

2. Second Violation:

- **Action:** Formal meeting between the teacher, building administration and/or curriculum supervisor and the student(s) involved.
- **Impact:** Student receives a zero on the assignment; building administrator or curriculum supervisor will place student's name on JTHS Plagiarism Tracking spreadsheet; documentation in Real Time.
- Student(s) will receive disciplinary consequences at the discretion of building administration commensurate with the severity of the infraction.
- **Note:** Curriculum supervisor and/or building administration will contact home to notify parent(s) of the result of the meeting.

- The infraction will be reported to honor society advisors, which may impact current membership and/or future acceptance based on the bylaws of the individual honor society.

3. Third Violation and any subsequent violations:

- **Action:** Formal meeting between building administration and the student(s) involved.
- **Impact:** Student receives a zero on the assignment; building administrator or curriculum supervisor will place student's name on JTHS Plagiarism Tracking spreadsheet; documentation in Real Time.
- Student(s) will receive disciplinary consequences at the discretion of building administration commensurate with the severity of the infraction.
- The disciplinary action will include a ten-day suspension from athletic and co-curricular activities.
- **Note:** Building administration will consult with the teacher and/or curriculum supervisor as needed; building administration will contact home to notify parent(s) of the result of the meeting.
- The infraction will be reported to honor society advisors, which may impact current membership and/or future acceptance based on the bylaws of the individual honor society.

Timed and/or Exam Scenarios

Please note that any instance of the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on a timed test or exam (including, but not limited to midterms, finals, and AP practice exams) will be considered cheating on the exam.

- Action: Formal meeting between the teacher, building administration and the student(s) involved.
- Impact: Student receives a zero on the exam; building administrator or curriculum supervisor will place student's name on JTHS Plagiarism Tracking spreadsheet; documentation in Real Time.
- Student(s) will receive disciplinary consequences at the discretion of building administration commensurate with the severity of the infraction.
- The disciplinary action will include a ten-day suspension from athletic and co-curricular activities.
- The infraction will be reported to honor society advisors, which may impact current membership and/or future acceptance based on the bylaws of the individual honor society.

Oral Defense

As part of the investigation into the authenticity of assignments, a teacher may choose to use an oral defense of the student's work. In this scenario, the teacher will meet with the student to ask variations of the following questions that gauge their level of understanding regarding the process. This will be used in conjunction with other tools to discern the student's proof of process.

1. Walk me through your process.
 - Describe how you approached this assignment from start to finish, including how you planned, developed, revised, and finalized your work.
2. Explain your decisions.
 - Tell me about one or two important choices you made while completing this assignment. Why did you make those decisions, and what alternatives did you consider?
3. Demonstrate your understanding.
 - Choose a specific section, example, calculation, argument, or design from your work and explain it in your own words, including why it is important to the overall assignment.
4. Reflect on your learning.
 - What was the most challenging part of this assignment, and how did you work through it? If you had additional time, what would you improve or do differently?

5. Discuss your resources.

- What resources, tools, or supports did you use while completing this assignment (e.g., notes, textbooks, peers, teacher feedback, technology, AI tools)? Explain how you used them and what work remained your own.

ONE-TO-ONE

In order for the Jefferson Township School District to prepare our students of today for tomorrow, we need to provide them with an engaging, personalized curriculum that will inspire and empower them to flourish as ethical and global citizens in the 21st century.

All students have unique needs, abilities and interests. Educational technology enables students to experience a more personalized curriculum to gain the 21st century skills necessary to be successful in college and beyond. Our commitment to creating digital learning environments will be evident through our new one to one technology initiative.

With our district goals in mind, promoting student use of instructional technology across the district as we progress through our planning and implementation of this one to one technology initiative, will result in a transformation in our learning environments and accelerate student learning.

Please refer to the district website to access information about the requirements, expectations, and handbook for our one-to-one initiative.

Please note that as per Board of Education Policy 7523, students are prohibited from bringing in their personal technology devices, including, but not limited to, portable devices such as computers, laptops, and tablets to campus in accordance with school rules and regulations.

MEDIA CENTER

The media center at JTHS is the hub of learning for all students. There is a leisure reading area, computer area, and seating for individual students or an entire class. Students can find an array of information on almost any subject. The media center is open Monday–Thursday from 7:05 am–2:45 pm and closes on Friday at 2:00 pm. The media center only closes for special testing or special academic sessions. The media center is not accessible during homeroom.

The JTHS media center uses the Dewey Decimal System for classification of materials. Non-fiction books are shelved according to this system so that books on the same subject will be next to each other. Fiction books are arranged alphabetically by author; biographies are arranged alphabetically by the last name of the author. The Morris Automatic Information Network, M.A.I.N. provides JTHS students online access to all the public library collections in Morris County.

Guidelines:

- Food, drink, loud talking, and using a personal electronic device in violation of the Electronic Communication and Recording Device (ECRD) policy are **prohibited** in the media center.
- Students entering the media center must have a pass from their academic class or study hall teacher. In addition to the individual pass, **each student must sign in the computer with their student id number or swipe in with their identification card.**
- The media center is an academic setting and all students are expected to read and work quietly. Students must return all materials/books to their proper shelves, log off computers, and return chairs to the proper position prior to leaving the media center.
- Makerspaces are creative, do it yourself spaces where students can gather to create, invent, and learn. There are 3D printers, software, electronics, craft and hardware supplies and tools, and more. Makerspace provides students hands-on opportunities to explore and develop STEAM under the supervision of staff.

- Students are expected to properly check out books. The borrowing period is three weeks. Books may be renewed for an additional three weeks. A fine for late materials will be charged. Prompt return of all media center materials is expected.
- Students who do not adhere to the media center rules/regulations will be disciplined depending on the severity and or frequency of the infraction. For example, failure to return books will result in loss of borrowing privileges; inappropriate use of computers will result in loss of internet privileges as well as a referral to the assistant principal.

Study and Support Options: Students who do not select a full schedule have an opportunity to select an Academic Study or Self-Directed Period. Additionally, there is Study Hall Support for tutoring and makeup work/tests.

Academic Study is provided for:

- All grade 9 students who elect not to have a full schedule.
- Grade 10, 11, 12 students who do not meet the eligibility of the self-directed period.

Self-Directed Period is provided for students in grades 10, 11, and 12 by administrative discretion. Students have the flexibility in how to manage their time.

Eligibility based on:

- History of complying with all school rules regarding attendance and discipline.
- Demonstrate a good attendance record
- Academic record (transcript)

Study Hall Support is provided for students during the school day. Any student in an Academic Study who needs assistance in a specific subject area is encouraged to make a SmartPass to the cafeteria to ask a subject area teacher. Staff members from the core academic departments provide tutoring, extra practice, oversee student work and assignments, or proctor make-up assessments.

After-School Options: National Honor Society students, academic honor society students, and subject area teacher specialists are available in the media center from 2:15 pm –3:00 pm on Monday – Thursday for studying and completing school work on the following schedule:

Monday: English

Tuesday: Social Studies

Wednesday: Mathematics

Thursday: Science

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY (NHS)

The name of our chapter is the Jefferson Township Chapter of the National Honor Society of Jefferson Township High School. The purpose of NHS is to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in students of Jefferson Township High School.

Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the Faculty Council, and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be in the first quarter of 11th or 12th grade. The candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at Jefferson Township High School. Eligibility is determined by:

- A student in good standing with the school administration
- A cumulative GPA of 3.60 unweighted or 3.80 weighted (Class of 2027)
- A cumulative GPA of 3.65 unweighted or 3.85 weighted (Class of 2028 and all classes thereafter)
- Service as demonstrated by involvement in a multitude of school and/or community organizations
- Leadership as evaluated by offices held in school and/or community organizations and other leadership roles in school and/or community organizations
- Character as demonstrated by conduct in and outside of school, an essay written by the student speaking to personal character and a letter of reference supporting such character

This NHS is under the sponsorship of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), as well as the guidance of the Faculty Council of five JTHS teachers and the leadership of the JTHS NHS Adviser.

The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The Chapter adviser shall be the sixth, non-voting, ex officio member of the Faculty Council. If a student transfers to JTHS and is already a member of NHS, he or she will remain a member as long as good standing status is maintained.

Students who meet the scholastic requirements and wish to be considered for membership must submit the following:

- Completed activity sheet including advisors' signatures where indicated
- One letter of recommendation from a teacher, employer, or religious leader in support of the student's character
- Letter from student outlining how he/she fulfills the attributes of character, service, and leadership as evidenced on the student's activity sheet

Any candidate not offered membership may appeal to the principal in writing no later than one week following the selection. A committee consisting of the principal and the National Honor Society advisor hears all appeals.

National Honor Society members must remain in good standing and may be subject to dismissal from NHS for the following reasons:

- Falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, service, or character
- Cumulative GPA falls below the NHS standard in effect when he or she was selected
- Fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership
- Violation of the school's code of conduct

- Students that commit any act of academic dishonesty, whether it is plagiarism, inappropriate AI use, submitting someone else's work as their own, copying answers, etc., will be recommended to be ineligible for consideration to be a part of The National Honor Society or any of the subject area honor societies based on the individual society's bylaws . If a student commits an act of academic dishonesty and that student is already an honor society member, it will be recommended that the student's membership be revoked pending a due process hearing outlined by the individual society's bylaws.
- Posts on the Internet and/or social media of comments/material that is below the standards and qualities of character and leadership
- A violation of the law or school regulations

The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser or faculty council. The member and adviser can discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning, although a hearing must still be held. All proceedings will follow NHS chapter bylaws. Please see additional details contained within the bylaws which are available in the upper class cafeteria and through the NHS and subject area honor societies' advisors.

ACADEMIC HONOR SOCIETIES

As with the National Honor Society, all of the Academic Honor Societies have strict rules regarding applying, admittance, and remaining a member in good standing. It is the responsibility of the student (and their parents) to read the bylaws and ensure an understanding of them.

Students that commit any act of academic dishonesty, whether it is plagiarism, inappropriate AI use, submitting someone else's work as their own, copying answers, etc., will be recommended to be ineligible for consideration to be a part of any of the subject area honor societies based on the individual society's bylaws . If a student commits an act of academic dishonesty and that student is already an honor society member, it will be recommended that the student's membership be revoked pending a due process hearing outlined by the individual society's bylaws.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Pursuant to District Policy 2436 - Activity Participation Fee Program.

"The Board of Education recognizes the value of athletic competition and extra-curricular/co-curricular activities outside the regular instructional program. However, with reduced or limited revenue and increased expenses, the Board must consider alternative revenue options to support these school-sponsored activities. Therefore, the Board of Education authorizes the establishment of an activity participation fee program as a supplemental revenue source contributing to a percentage of the school district's total costs for operating school-sponsored activities."

All school-sponsored extra-curricular/co-curricular activities, will be implementing an Activity Fee beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Students will be assessed an annual activity fee due prior to any student participating in a sport/activity during the school year. This annual fee will be charged to any student in grades 6 through 12 wishing to participate. Activity fees for all clubs must be paid prior to participation. Please note that as of January 2022, the activity fee will not be required for a student if their membership in a co-curricular activity is a requirement of a class in which they are enrolled.

The 2026-2027 fee schedule is as follows:

Per Activity: \$50 - Per Sport: \$100

Annual Cap Per Student: \$200; Annual Cap Per Family: \$400

Reduced Lunch Families: 50% of all rates/caps

Free Lunch Families: No Fee

Extra-curricular/co-curricular activities enhance the curricular programs mandated by the State of New Jersey. JTHS offers a number of clubs and activities that further assist in the growth and development of each student. There are various male, female, and co-ed sports offered at multiple levels. Students are encouraged to get involved in these activities that nurture and develop individual skills and talents.

Eligibility Requirements:

All incoming grade 9 students are eligible to participate in athletic and extra-curricular/co-curricular activities in the fall and winter of their freshman year. In order to participate in spring athletic and extra-curricular/co-curricular activities, grade 9 students must have earned 15 passing credits in the first semester.

All grade 10, 11 and 12 students must have acquired 30 passing credits to be eligible to participate in athletic and extra-curricular/co-curricular activities in the fall and winter. In order to participate in spring athletic and extra-curricular/co-curricular activities, students must have earned an additional 15 passing credits in the first semester.

- **Academic Probation/Suspension Regulation:** The purpose of this regulation is to address students that are not maintaining good grades within a season (marking period for extra-curricular/co-curricular activities) and to assist their recovery to good academic standing.

Probation – An academic review will occur monthly for all students involved in sports and/or co-curricular activities to determine students that are not in good academic standing. Any student failing any subject and/or obtaining two (2) or more “D” grades will be placed on probation and have a period of two (2) weeks to raise the grades in question. No restrictions will be placed on the student during the probation phase of the regulation.

“Red Shirt” Status – After the duration of the two week probationary phase any student on probation that does not raise his/her failing grade(s) above the standards described above will be “red-shirted” for a period of one (1) week during which they will be permitted to attend and participate in practices and meetings, and will be warned that they will face a suspension from all contests, events, games, and meetings if they do not raise their failing grade(s) within the Red Shirt week. Any student on the Probation list who continues to have two (2) or more “D” grades, will continue to be monitored on the Probation List, but will face no restrictions.

Suspension - After the “red shirt” suspension phase, further review will be conducted. If the student has raised his/her failing grade(s) above the standards, they will be restored to full participation status. Any student that remains below the standards will be immediately suspended from the sport/activity with no participation or attendance at contests, events, and meetings until his/her grades improve to the acceptable level, pending a meeting with the Athletic Director and/or Assistant Principal.

- Students should know their academic standing as it applies to participation in athletics and extra-curricular/co-curricular activities. When academic eligibility for a sport or extra-curricular/co-curricular activity is in doubt, students should contact their school counselor.

This should be done well in advance of the start date for the sport or extra-curricular/co-curricular activity.

- Students should contact their coaches and advisors when they are having difficulties during the season (marking period) and may need academic assistance. Coaches and advisors have been advised to keep close contact with members of their respective teams and organizations with regard to their academic standing. Each coach or advisor has the responsibility and obligation to help guide every student on his/her team or club academically and socially, especially those who may have difficulty maintaining eligibility.

JTHS Co-Curricular Activities		
Marching Band	Student Council	Yearbook
Class Councils	DECA	Fall Drama
Spring Musical	Debate Team	Falcon Spirit Club
FBLA	Madrigals	PDP
Robotics Team	Art Lab	Academic Bowl
Jazz Band	National Honor Society	Select Choir
Unified Track	Video Production Club	Vocal Ensemble
Wind Ensemble	Book Club	Spanish Honor Society
French Honor Society	ASL Honor Society	Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA)
Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society	National English Honor Society	Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society
Science National Honor Society	Table Top Game Club	Tri-M Music Honor Society
Video Game Club	Environmental Club (SEER)	Falcon Ambassadors
SADD	Math League	Science League

JTHS Student Athletic Activities		
Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
Cheerleading	Winter Cheerleading	Baseball
Cross Country: Boys/Girls	Basketball Boys	Golf: Boys/Girls
Field Hockey	Basketball Girls	Lacrosse Boys
Football	Bowling: Boys/Girls	Lacrosse Girls

Soccer Boys	Ice Hockey	Softball
Soccer Girls	Indoor Track: Boys/Girls	Track: Boys/Girls
Volleyball Girls	Skiing: Boys/Girls	Volleyball Boys
	Wrestling	Flag Football

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

A primary goal in education is to establish an environment in which teachers and students can teach and learn with minimal distractions. In order to provide a safe and conducive environment for learning, the following guidelines will be followed:

Proper Supervision/Authorized Areas: Students must always be under the direct supervision of a teacher, advisor, or coach. Students who stay after school should stay with the activity advisor, coach or teacher until the late bus. In the event an activity ends early, students must report to the cafeteria. Loitering is prohibited in the hallways or on school grounds. Students may not go into areas such as, but not limited to the gym, music rooms, middle school, etc. without proper authorization and supervision.

Hallway/Lavatory Pass System: Students are expected to take full advantage of classroom time and instruction. In order to leave a class, study, or the cafeteria, students need permission and must use the approved pass. JTHS continues to contract with an electronic hall pass system called SmartPass. Anytime a student leaves a classroom during the period, the student must use this system. Students will be taught how to use this system the first week of school. **Under most circumstances, students are required to use the restroom that is closest to the classroom that they are leaving.** Exceptions to this will be made through administration or the counseling or CST offices. If there is a restroom in the same hallway/wing, the student must use that restroom. If a student is caught in another restroom or in another area of the school, the student will be considered to be in an ‘unauthorized area’ and will receive appropriate consequences (see chart on page 35). Again, this is an electronic system so students must use their school laptops for this system. **If a student does not have a computer with him/her, a hall monitor will be called to the classroom in order to escort the student.** **Students may not use cell phones in order to access the SmartPass system.** In order to maximize the amount of instruction time and due to the amount of graffiti and vandalism in the bathrooms, a set number of passes are available at any one time. When a student is given permission by the teacher to use the restroom, the student will create a pass on the SmartPass system. The system will then record the pass or the student will get a message indicating that he/she is ‘in line’. If the student is ‘in line’ they are to remain in the classroom until the system issues a pass. Students will be allocated three passes per day (outside of bathroom usage during lunch and in the locker room).

Honors Pass: Students who have achieved honor roll or high honor roll and have demonstrated good citizenship will be awarded an honors pass at the beginning of the marking period. Good citizenship means that the student has exhibited outstanding behavior regarding expected JTHS behavior. He/she exhibits punctuality to school and classes and has a spotless disciplinary record for the marking period. An honors pass will be revoked should a student misrepresent themselves or abuse the use of the pass. The Honors Pass is fully integrated with SmartPass. Students on an Honors Pass wishing to leave the classroom should select the “Honors Pass” option on SmartPass. Please note that due to space constraints, the media center will not be included in the Honors Pass system.

Care of School Property: Lockers, desks, tables, chairs, textbooks, laptops, school buses, etc. are supplied for student use by the taxpayers of Jefferson Township. Students are expected to return the books and laptops in the same condition. Students are expected to use lockers, desks, tables and chairs, in a dignified manner. Students who damage, break, or inscribe on school equipment will be assessed with a replacement/cleaning fee.

Food/Beverage Policy: Personal food deliveries from outside vendors are not permitted. The use of food in the classroom must be related to curriculum and instruction. Food is not permitted for personal celebrations.

Lockers: The main office will assign lockers and combinations to all students. The locker number and combination will appear on the student's schedule. This hall locker assignment will continue for the entire period of time a student attends Jefferson Township High School. Students should keep a record of the combination. Students must keep lockers locked at all times and keep their combination private. Students are not permitted to share lockers. Students may only use the locker assigned to them. Hall and gymnasium lockers are school property and therefore, subject to inspection by school personnel at any time. Defacing any locker is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action. The inside and outside of the lockers are to be clear of any writing. Students are responsible for cleaning out lockers at the end of the school year. **It is unwise to keep any valuables or expensive jewelry, etc. inside any lockers. The school cannot be held responsible for any theft; the student is responsible for all possessions.** In the event that a locker breaks or is vandalized, the student should report it to the main office immediately.

Textbook Care: Students are responsible for proper care of textbooks. Students must pay for lost or damaged books or supplies within a reasonable time. Books must be returned at the end of the course in the same condition as when they were received, allowing for reasonable wear and tear. Students who do not return their books at the end of the year or do not pay their book fines will not be allowed to participate in graduation or may face disciplinary action.

Student Obligations: Students are expected to meet all obligations including monetary fines **and cafeteria balances**. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of all privileges and activities, including participation in field trips, dances, clubs, sports, graduation and any and all other school sponsored activities.

Lost and Found Items: All articles found in the building should be taken to the main office.

Search and Seizure: Property such as lockers and desks are owned by the district. School officials are permitted to conduct reasonable searches and seizures in the interest of school safety and enforcement of school and state laws and regulations. This includes personal property such as, but not limited to, backpacks, purses, non-invasive searches of clothing, and automobiles on campus.

Guests/Visitors: All visitors are to provide government issued identification to our visitor management system in order to gain access into the building. Students are not permitted to bring visitors to school. Guests wishing to speak with a specific student require parent/guardian permission and the visitation should take place under the supervision of the respective school counselor/administrator.

Collection of Monies: The collection of monies by students is permissible for approved fundraisers. Students need permission from the principal for any other reasons. Collecting money and/or selling items on school buses are prohibited.

Gifts/Parties: Students are not to collect money for gifts for teachers, staff members, coaches or students, or hold parties or similar activities during school time without the permission of the principal.

Cafeteria: The Pomptonian Food Services provide JTHS with a large array of well balanced, hot or cold lunches and snacks. Contact the food services director at 973-697-3106 should you need a prepaid meal plan or qualify for the financial assistance program.

Lunch: Students must have their lunch during the lunch period in approved areas of the building. Students may not leave school for lunch, eat in the parking lot, or on outside grounds without permission. Lunch may be purchased in the cafeteria or brought from home and students are expected to clean their area and dispose of all trash prior to the end of the period. Students who do not abide by these expectations are subject to disciplinary action. Food delivery from outside establishments is not permitted during the school day.

Lunch Guidelines:

- Areas to purchase/eat lunch:
 - Freshmen and Sophomores must eat in the Underclassmen Cafeteria.
 - Juniors must eat in the Upperclassmen Cafeteria.
 - Seniors may only eat in the Upperclassmen cafeteria or at administration discretion, during nice weather, in the Senior Patio.
 - Please see separate heading for information on Lunch Open Campus for Seniors.
 - No one is allowed to eat in hallways. This includes the benches outside of the cafeteria and music rooms.
- Each student is responsible for their respective area. Trays are to be returned, plastic is recycled, and garbage is placed in the trash.
- Only with the pre-authorization from a teacher may a student go to that teacher's classroom in order to eat lunch. Teachers will only authorize lunch in their classrooms if it is for specific reasons that have to do with their teaching (making up work, studying for their exams, receiving extra assistance with their content, etc.... When the above is no longer applicable (that is, students have made up work, no longer need academic assistance, etc.), students will return to eating in the appropriate cafeteria.
- You can go to the media center, but you cannot bring food/beverage to the media center

Grab and Go Breakfast: Homeroom begins at 7:20 a.m. and extends for 6 minutes. Students will have the opportunity upon arriving at school to go through the cafeteria line and pick up a "Grab & Go" breakfast that can be taken to homeroom to be eaten prior to their first period class. Please ensure that all trash is placed in the proper receptacle and that students eat neatly without leaving crumbs or spills in the classroom.

Lunch Open Campus for Seniors: As per Policy 5514.01 and pending approval by the Board of Education each year, and as a privilege available to seniors only, JTHS will offer an open campus at lunchtime. In order for this privilege to be allowed, the following guidelines must be adhered to:

- The Board of Education must grant permission each year following a request from the senior class representatives;
- All Open Campus forms must be signed by seniors and parents of the seniors;
- These forms must be notarized;
- Any senior driving to or from school for Open Campus must have previously submitted a copy of the NJ driver's license, insurance card, vehicle registration, and all pertinent car information (license plate number, make/model./year of the vehicle);
- Seniors must be in good standing, including:
 - Having completed and be enrolled in a sufficient number of credits to be considered a senior eligible for graduation in June of the current academic year (students must have 140 credits to graduate);
 - Meet the minimum GPA requirements as outlined in the BOE policy/Regulation

- Be in compliance with all district policies/regulations and school procedures regarding attendance (that is, not have an undue number of unexcused tardies or absences to/from school or class);
- Be current with all student accounts including not having any outstanding cafeteria balances or unpaid fines.
- Seniors **must have** their student ID in order to swipe out and in. If a student does not have his/her/their ID on them, they will not be allowed to leave that day.
- In addition, any student can have this privilege suspended or revoked if:
 - He/she/they are tardy (unexcused) for the day (privilege suspended for that day);
 - Have disciplinary infractions;
 - He/she/they return to campus late;
 - He/she/they transport a student that does not have permission to leave campus;
 - He/she/they drive in a manner inconsistent with safety or motor vehicle laws;
 - He/she/they use any form of drug, alcohol, vape, etc... in school, at school sponsored activities, or while participating in the Open Campus privilege;
- Please refer to Policy/Regulation 5514.01 for a full list of rules and other information.
- If a student returns to school early from open campus, he/she must proceed directly to the location on their assigned schedule after signing in at the main office (e.g. Lunch, Academic, Study Hall). If the student does not proceed directly to this location, and is found to be wandering the halls, they will lose open campus privileges for the subsequent day.

Electronic Communication and Recording Device (ECRD): As per Board of Education Policy 5516, an “electronic communication and recording device (ECRD)” includes any device with the capability to audio or video record or is capable of receiving or transmitting any type of communication between persons. An ECRD includes, but is not limited to, cameras, cellular and wireless telephones, pagers/beepers, laptop computers, tablets, electronic readers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), two-way radios, portable fax machines, video broadcasting devices, and any other device that allows a person to record and/or transmit, on either a real time or delayed basis, sound, video or still images, text, or other information.

For the purposes of this policy, “school grounds” means and includes land, portions of land, structures, buildings, and structures that support these buildings, including, but not limited to, administrative buildings, kitchens, maintenance shops, and garages. “School grounds” also includes other facilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1.2, playgrounds, and other recreational places owned by the local municipalities, private entities, or other individuals during those times when the school district has exclusive use of a portion of such land.

During the school day, a pupil’s personal ECRD may only be used with the permission of the school staff member that is supervising the specific activity that is to be recorded. Any audio and/or video recording by a pupil using their personal ECRD with permission of a school staff member while participating in a curricular or school-sponsored activity where other pupils or staff members are present shall require the permission for such recording from any other pupil and their parents or guardians and/or staff members whose voice or image is to be recorded. A pupil authorized or approved to use an ECRD may not use an ECRD to access internet sites or view information or internet-based material that is inappropriate or would be blocked from pupil access by the school district’s acceptable use of computers and networks policy. **Infractions related to the improper use of electronic communication and recording devices, particularly audio/video recordings will result in discipline.**

Use of Electronic Devices: All students are issued a school laptop for instructional purposes. Any violation of AUP and ECRD policies must be reported to the administration. At no time are students allowed to use any devices for recording purposes unless he/she has the permission of a teacher, coach, or administrator.

Cell Phone/Personal Device Expectations for Students: Cell phones have become a major concern and distraction within the school. The concern is missing instructional time and the lack of authentic engagement in classroom learning. The partial list of activities that students are using cell phones for during school includes: checking messages, playing games, watching non-educational videos, recording non-educational videos (especially in the bathrooms), logging on to social media sites, and committing possible HIB violations. With that said, school rules for cell phones are as follows.

As per New Jersey State Law and Board of Education Policy 5516, no student is permitted to use an electronic device, **including cell phones, electronic ear buds, headphones, smart glasses, or smart watches** without explicit permission from a teacher or administrator at the high school. Phones and other electronic devices, outside of a school-issued laptop, are expected to be away and stored between 7:00 am-2:00 pm. Failure to comply with the above will result in the following disciplinary action.

This year, to adequately enforce the cell phone law and policy, we will be implementing the [Doorman System](#) at JTHS. Instead of requiring students to lock their devices in pouches, Doorman temporarily limits access to distracting apps and websites during instructional time, helping students stay focused in class, while allowing administration to manage and monitor student cell phone usage. The app activates a secure, school-managed VPN that applies the school's cell phone policy. During the school day, access to distracting apps—such as social media, games, messaging apps, and other non-approved websites—will be restricted. This also includes phone calls and text messaging. Students continue to have access to medical apps or anything the district feels necessary. At the end of class or the school day, the restrictions are automatically removed based on the school's settings, and the phone returns to normal use. Seniors afforded Open Campus privileges will have full access to their phones while out of the building.

By allowing students to retain their devices while minimizing distractions, Doorman provides schools with an alternative to physical phone collection and supports a more focused learning environment.

- Students download the Doorman app and “tap in” to start the school day using classroom NFC DoorTags which activates the school’s no cell phone policy by disabling distracting phone apps.
- Students participating in Open Campus will “tap out” at the start of open campus/lunch to have full phone functionality.
- Students will “tap out” at dismissal OR the system automatically deactivates based on district settings to restore student phone use to full functionality.
- Students keep their phones with them for the duration of the day, eliminating the need for classroom phone collection or storage, and allowing teachers to focus on instruction.

Any student who chooses to opt-out of the Doorman System, must complete the necessary paperwork through the main office. Any student opting out will bring their cell phone to the main office each morning to be locked in a secured location until dismissal at 2:00pm. Failure to comply with the cell phone procedures will result in the consequences outlined below:

- At the first offense, a student will be issued a formal warning issued by administration.
- At the second offense, the student will be issued an office detention, and the student’s phone/electronic device will be confiscated and remain in the main office for the remainder of the school day.

- At the third offense, the student will be issued two office detentions, and the student's phone will remain in the main office until a parent/guardian picks up the phone.
- Anything beyond the third offense will result in additional disciplinary action, and may result in In-School Suspension or Out-of-School Suspension.

The school/district is not responsible for lost or stolen electronic devices.

Please note that refusal by students to comply with the above rules will also be considered insubordination and will result in additional disciplinary action. This would include refusal to turn cell phones over to teachers and/or administration or disrespectful behaviors/comments towards teachers or administration.

In addition to the above:

- Portable Bluetooth speakers **are not permitted at any time** during the school day. .
- When permitted, students are expected to use all technology appropriately and for the right reasons. Inappropriate use, including social media, can result in disciplinary action.
- We understand that parents may need to reach their children while they are in school. Please be mindful that they will not have access to their cell phones during the day. If there is an emergency or important message that you need to communicate to them, please call the main office (973-697-3535) and we will get it to them immediately. Alternatively, even though their phone is off, you can still leave them a message. Similarly, our students are not allowed to use their cell phones to make calls. If a student needs to call home, he/she must do so before or after school or report to the main office. In the main office, students will be permitted to use an office phone to call home.

Campus Parking: Parking on campus is a senior privilege and is contingent upon available spaces. No unregistered vehicle may park on campus (Policy 5514). The fee for parking is nonrefundable.

Please note that the suspension of driving privileges is at the discretion of the administration, and may include infractions such as (but not limited to):

- Out of School Suspension
- Leaving School Grounds without permission - Permanent loss of parking privileges;
- Six (6) unexcused lates to school per marking period will result in an administrative conference and the issuing of two office detentions for the students in accordance with district regulation 5240 - Tardiness. Any subsequent lates to school in that marking period will result in the permanent loss of parking privileges;
- Referrals - three (3) disciplinary referrals may result in the permanent loss of parking privileges, but can be appealed to the school administration;
- Cuts – any two (2) cuts in the same class during the academic year OR three (3) total cuts of any class during the academic year will result in the permanent loss of parking privileges;
- Any motor vehicle violation(s) issued to a student while driving to or from school, or in connection with a school activity will result in the permanent loss of parking privileges. Violations include, but are not limited to, speeding, reckless driving, passing a school bus, and driving more than one additional person while holding a Graduated Driver's License; and

- Failing any course for the marking period – Failing a course for any marking period will result in the suspension of student parking privileges for the entirety of the following marking period. If during the next marking period after failing a class the student does not fail any course, the student may re-apply for parking, and can be issued a parking spot if one becomes available at the discretion of the school administration.
- Taking another student from school property and causing them to miss or cut class will result in a disciplinary consequence in accordance with the high school's code of conduct.

In accordance with BOE Policy 5514, Parking on campus as an unauthorized driver and/or in an unauthorized vehicle during your junior year will result in the ineligibility to park on campus during a student's senior year. It will also result in the towing of any unauthorized vehicle off school property at the owner's expense.

Bus Decorum: Transporting students to and from school necessitates adherence to strict guidelines to ensure the safety of all. As per Board of Education Regulation 8600, the driver of a school bus represents an extension of authority of the school and is in complete charge of the bus with regard to pupil behavior in or about the vehicle which he/she operates. Students are expected to follow safety guidelines and good behavior from the time they arrive at their bus stop. The driver is responsible for the safety and behavior of the students. Should a student not adhere to the guidelines, the driver will notify the principal/assistant principal who will appropriately discipline the student and if necessary exclude a student from riding the bus. If a student is excluded from riding the bus, it shall be the responsibility of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the student(s), in such cases, to provide transportation to and from school during the period of bus suspension. In cases of bus misconduct, the steps below will be taken:

1. In accordance with Board of Education policy and State regulations, pupils may have their bus privilege suspended by Administration for improper behavior.
2. All drivers will be provided with the form "Misconduct Report on Bus."
3. In the event a pupil's conduct on a bus is unsatisfactory, this form shall be completed in triplicate by the driver and distributed to the Principal or Assistant Principal at the school which the pupil attends.
4. In most cases, the pupils shall be notified by the driver when a "Misconduct Report on Bus" is to be issued.
5. It shall be the responsibility of the Principal and/or Assistant Principal to take immediate, appropriate disciplinary action. The recommended sequence of disciplinary action for misbehavior is as follows:
 - a. First Notice: Conference with the pupil, and disciplinary action if appropriate.
 - a. Conference with pupil and parent(s) or legal guardian(s)
 - b. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) conference. Suspension of pupil's bus privilege for five (5) school days.
6. Immediately after taking disciplinary action, the Principal and/or Assistant Principal shall sign the form and indicate the disciplinary action taken. The signed copy will be distributed as follows: first copy will remain with the Principal; second and third copy will be sent to the Transportation Supervisor who will retain the second copy and transmit the third copy to the school bus driver.
7. In cases of severe misconduct, any of the steps in the above sequence may be omitted. The Principal and/or Assistant Principal may recommend to the Superintendent to temporarily suspend the student's bus privilege until appropriate disciplinary action is taken as determined by the Superintendent. The pupil(s) parents or legal guardian(s) shall be immediately notified of the temporary suspension.

Guidelines:

- Arrive at the bus stop five minutes prior to pick up time and avoid running as the bus approaches.
- Stand at the designated stop, not in the roadway.
- Line up at least 5-10 feet from the bus; wait until the bus stops and the door opens before entering.

When crossing a street or roadway to board or exit a bus, students must:

- Pass 10 feet in front of the bus.
- Wait for the driver to signal to cross.
- Look left, right and then left again before crossing.

On the bus, students must:

- Sit in the assigned seat, attach the seat belt, and not extend your head, arms, or objects out the window or into the aisle.
- Keep the aisles clear of items such as but not limited to books, bags, musical instruments etc.
- Large items may not be transported on the bus.
- Use appropriate language and speak softly.
- Follow all school rules such as no smoking or defacing the bus.

Late Bus: JTHS has numerous clubs, sports and academic activities for students beyond the regular school day, as well as, scheduled office detentions. In addition to the bus rules above, students who wish to ride the 3:15 p.m. late bus must sign up prior to the end of the final lunch period. A QR code to the late bus sign-up sheet is posted in the underclassmen cafeteria. The electronic form will also be available on the school's website. If a student's name is not on the late bus roster he/she may not be permitted to take the bus. The 3:15 pm late bus follows a general route.

DRESS CODE (Policy and Regulation 5511)

Jefferson Township Board of Education believes that schools should be safe and affirming spaces for all students. Furthermore, we believe that all students should have the right to express themselves fully in school through choosing clothing, hairstyles, jewelry, and accessories that appropriately represent and affirm their varied identities.

The Dress Code affirms that all students are to be treated equitably regardless of gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, body type/size, religion, and personal style. It is our responsibility to maintain a learning environment that does not interfere with the health and safety of the student or others while encouraging standards of dress most suitable for post-secondary educational, professional, and/or job environments.

Jefferson Township students are expected to dress in a neat, clean, and tidy manner that is appropriate for school and in accordance with modern standards of good taste. We entrust our community of students and parents to encourage and implement appropriate standards of attire.

- Clothing needs to be a positive reflection on the values and ethics of the school and community. As such, no such apparel or objects may obtain:
 - Any references [words, symbols, logos, etc.] to profanity, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, or violence;
 - Ideas [words, symbols, logos, etc.] that promote gang membership/activities, prejudices, or other hate speech;
 - Ideas that advocate for any other illegal or age-inappropriate ideas;
 - The disrespectful wearing of flags or religious items; or
 - Items that have double meanings so as to convey an inappropriate message, as above.

- Students must wear footwear. The footwear must be appropriately safe for the classroom and activities in which the students are participating as per protocols for individual classes.
- All students must wear
 - Tops and bottoms with fabric that covers the front, back, and sides (including under the arms), and the clothing may not be strapless.
 - Clothing that covers the midriff, chest, buttocks, other private parts, and undergarments with opaque material.
- Sunglasses may not be worn unless they are for a prescription or other medical reason.
- Hats or cosmetic headdresses, bandanas/kerchiefs, woven caps, stocking caps, hoods, or any other headwear may not be worn. Exceptions for medical, religious, and/or cultural reasons will be made.

In all instances, the administration reserves the right to determine proper attire.

For items deemed inappropriate, every attempt will be made to remediate the situation by asking the student to change, having parents bring alternate clothing, or borrowing clean clothing from school, if available. Repeated offenders may meet with disciplinary consequences as outlined in Policy and Regulation 5600 Student Discipline/Code of Conduct.

Drills - Fire, Evacuation, Shelter-in-Place, and Active Shooter: State Law requires that all schools properly prepare for various kinds of emergencies. Fire, Evacuation, Shelter-in-Place, Active Shooter procedures have been developed in conjunction with the Jefferson Township Police, Morris County Prosecutor's Office, and Jefferson Township Fire/Rescue squads.

Guidelines:

- Drills are to be taken seriously, and students must carefully follow the directives of staff members for each specific drill.
- During fire and evacuation drills, everyone is to exit the building in a quiet and orderly manner. Re-enter the building upon administrative communication.
- During a shelter-in-place, students are to remain in their classroom as instruction continues until administrative communication.
- During an enhanced lockdown, students are to remain in their classrooms with the doors closed and locked, and take shelter while following all staff directions.
- During an active shooter drill, students are to follow the directives of staff members based on information provided. The drill has concluded upon administrative communication.
- Students may not be dismissed during a drill.
- All use of personal electronic devices is prohibited during drills.

Prohibited and/or Illegal Items: To ensure the safety and well-being of the entire JTHS community, the following items are prohibited at all times (on school grounds or buses, or any school sanctioned activity or trip; Policy 5530):

- **WEAPONS:** Guns, knives, laser pointers, metal detectors, spiked belts, thick chains, or any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon.
- **FIREWORKS/BOMBS/LIGHTERS/MATCHES:** The use or possession of any type of firework, lighters/matches, stink bomb or bomb.

- **SUBSTANCE:** means alcoholic beverages, controlled dangerous substances, including anabolic steroids as defined at N.J.S.A. 24:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2, any chemical or chemical compound which releases vapors or fumes.
- **DRUGS/TOBACCO:** The use, distribution or possession of tobacco products including chew or electronic cigarettes. The use, distribution or possession of drugs, any chemical substance (e.g. alcohol, marijuana, steroids, cocaine, inhalants, Valium, etc.) taken orally, intravenously, intramuscularly, smoked, or inhaled for the purpose of abuse, including any prescriptions, illicit drugs, and look-alikes. Also, any over-the-counter product including, but not limited to, diet pills, herbal supplements, caffeine pills, Tylenol, Advil, aspirin and performance-enhancing substances.

Severe Misconduct: Our school community reinforces the importance of dependability, honesty, participation, respect, self-reliance, trust, tolerance and responsibility. Therefore, severe action will be taken for the following severe offenses:

- Assaultive behavior directed toward a school staff member or a member of the school community.
- Possession or distribution of a weapon, a controlled dangerous substance (CDS), or alcoholic beverage

As a result of a severe misconduct, additional disciplinary action may include the withholding of privileges to participate in after school activities, extra-curricular/co-curricular activities, and after school events (e.g. sports, graduation, proms, National Honor Society, drama, etc.) as follows:

- 1st Offense: loss of extra-curricular/co-curricular and athletics for up to 10 calendar days beginning on the first day of suspension
- 2nd Offense: loss of extra-curricular/co-curricular, and athletics for up to 20 calendar days beginning on the first day of suspension.
- 3rd Offense: loss of extra-curricular/co-curricular and athletics for the remainder of the school year.

Language Both Written and Verbal: Students are expected to speak to others with respect and not use foul or hurtful language. The use of foul language is prohibited either orally or in any written/visual form of communication and subject to disciplinary action.

Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying: Students and staff are to be respectful and treat all members of the Jefferson Community with dignity (Policy 5512). Should a student feel victimized, they should report the incident(s) immediately using a HIB Reporting Form.

Student Assistance Counselor (SAC): The student assistance counselor works closely with the school counselors to identify, refer, and provide support services for students who are experiencing difficulties in school due to a range of underlying health and social emotional issues. These problems can be related to school, peers, family, alcohol dependence and substance abuse. The student assistance counselor also provides information concerning referrals to outside agencies and support services.

Students and their families can reach the student assistance counselor directly in the guidance office or through their high school counselor. An appointment will be arranged where the student and parent/guardian can talk freely and in private. No information from these appointments ever becomes part of a student's permanent record. At JTHS, the SAC is also the School Anti-Bullying Specialist.

Cyber-Bullying: "Cyber-Bullying" is the use of electronic information and communication devices to include but not be limited to e-mail messages, instant messaging, text messaging, cellular telephone communications, internet blogs, internet chat rooms, internet postings, and defamatory websites that:

1. Deliberately threatens, harasses, intimidates an individual or group of individuals; or
2. Places an individual in reasonable fear of harm to the individual or damage to the individual's property; or

3. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

“School district owned, operated, or supervised technologies” is any computer, networking system, electronic equipment, or any other equipment or device that may be used by a person to communicate to another which is owned, leased, operated, or under the control or supervision of the school district and/or school district staff.

Discipline and Consequences

Some acts of cyber-bullying may be isolated incidents requiring the school district to respond appropriately to the individual committing the acts. Other acts may be so serious or part of a larger pattern of cyberbullying that require a response either at the classroom, school building, school district level or by law enforcement officials.

Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for pupils who commit an act of cyber-bullying range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion as permitted under N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, Discipline of Pupils. In addition, cyber-bullying using district technology violates Policy 2361 – Acceptable Use of Computer Network/Computer and Resources and subjects the pupil to discipline and sanctions of Policy and Regulation 2361 Acceptable Use.

Sexual Harassment: The Board of Education will not tolerate sexual harassment of pupils by school employees, other pupils, or third parties. Sexual harassment of pupils is a form of prohibited sex discrimination. School district staff will investigate and resolve allegations of sexual harassment of pupils engaged in by school employees, other pupils (peers), or third parties.

The Board shall establish a grievance procedure through which school district staff and/or pupils can report alleged sexual discrimination, including sexual harassment which may include quid pro quo harassment and hostile environment.

Definitions

Quid pro quo harassment occurs when a school employee explicitly or implicitly conditions a pupil’s participation in an educational program or activity or bases an educational decision on the pupil’s submission to unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other favors, or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Quid Pro Quo Harassment is equally unlawful whether the pupil resists and suffers the threatened harm or submits and thus avoids the threatened harm.

Hostile environment sexual harassment is sexually harassing conduct (which can include unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other favors, or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature) by an employee, by another pupil, or by a third party that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to limit a pupil’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or to create a hostile or abusive educational environment.

This Policy protects any “person” from sex discrimination; accordingly, both male and female pupils are protected from sexual harassment engaged in by school district employees, other pupils, or third parties. Sexual harassment, regardless of the gender of the harasser, even if the harasser and the pupil being harassed are members of the same gender is prohibited. Harassing conduct of a sexual nature directed toward any pupil, regardless of the pupil’s sexual orientation, may create a sexually hostile environment and therefore constitute sexual harassment. Nonsexual touching or other nonsexual conduct does not constitute sexual harassment.

The regulation and grievance procedure shall provide a mechanism for discovering sexual harassment as early as possible and for effectively correcting problems. The Superintendent, or designee, will take steps to avoid any further sexual harassment and to prevent any retaliation against the pupil, who made the complaint, was the subject of the harassment, or against those who provided the information or were witnesses. The school district

staff can learn of sexual harassment through notice and any other means such as from a witness to an incident, an anonymous letter or telephone call. This policy and regulation on sexual harassment of pupils shall be published and distributed to pupils and employees to ensure all pupils and employees understand the nature of sexual harassment and that the Board will not tolerate it. The Board shall provide training for all staff and age-appropriate classroom information for pupils to ensure the staff and the pupils understand what type of conduct can cause sexual harassment and that the staff know the school district policy and regulation on how to respond.

In cases of alleged harassment, the protections of the First Amendment must be considered if issues of speech or expression are involved. Free speech rights apply in the classroom and in all other programs in the public schools. The Superintendent, or designee, will formulate, interpret, and apply the policy so as to protect free speech rights of staff, pupils and third parties.

In addition, if the Board accepts federal funds, the Board shall be bound by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1992 prohibiting sexual harassment of pupils. Title IX applies to all public school districts that receive federal funds and protects pupils in connection with all the academic, educational, extra-curricular/co-curricular, athletic, and other programs of the school district, whether they take place in the school facilities, on the school bus, at a class or training program sponsored by the school in a school building or at another location.

LEVELS OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Please refer to the table at the end of the handbook for a general guideline for disciplinary infractions.

Teacher Conference: Teacher will meet with a student to inform and correct an infraction.

Teacher Detention: A teacher detention will be assigned for any infraction of school rules and regulations within the classroom: i.e. misbehavior, lack of preparation or materials, no homework etc. Teacher detentions may only be rescheduled by the teacher prior to the start of the day. Failure to reschedule a detention as described above will result in a detention cut. Further disciplinary action will be taken for detention cuts. The teacher must call home to inform the parent the reason, date, and location of the detention.

Administrative Conference: Students are called to the office of a supervisor, assistant principal, or principal to discuss the issue/infraction.

Loss of Privilege: Students who violate or abuse school rules may have privileges revoked.

Office/Administrative Detention: Office detentions will be assigned for violations of school policy. Illness is a legitimate reason for missing detention only when an excuse is obtained from the school nurse prior to the assigned detention. Detention assignments take precedence over extra help, student activities and personal obligations unless excused by the administration. Office detentions may only be reassigned by the assistant principal prior to 2:00 p.m. of the assigned detention day. Failure to reschedule a detention as described above will result in a detention cut and further disciplinary action will be taken by administration.

Guidelines: While serving detention, students are expected to adhere to the following:

- Students should be seated in an alternating fashion, as they would be in a test-taking situation
- Complete silence must be maintained
- Students are required to bring schoolwork and must be engaged in doing that work

- Students are to remain in the detention for the entire period (2:15-3:05 pm)
- There is no sleeping, eating or drinking allowed in the detention room
- Students must adhere to the dress code policy during detention.
- Students must adhere to the electronic and communication recording device (ECRD) policy during detention.
- Students must remain seated at all times
- No visitors will be permitted

In-School Suspension: In-school suspension will be assigned by the Principal or Assistant Principal for serious infractions or for continuous or willful disregard for school rules/regulations. An assigned in-school suspension may be rescheduled for just cause with the permission of the Assistant Principal once. Failure to attend an assigned in-school suspension will result in an additional in-school suspension day and or an out of school suspension day. The original in -school suspension day will be rescheduled. If a student is absent from school on their assigned in-school suspension day, then he/she must provide documentation of just cause, as per Board of Education excused absences (Policy 5200). The missed in-school suspension day will be rescheduled for the next school day. In the event an unforeseen emergency occurs prior to the in-school suspension date(s), please call 973-697-3535 Ext 5814.

In-School Suspension Guidelines:

- Students must report to the main office upon their arrival to school.
- Students will be escorted to the in-school suspension room and are not permitted to go to their lockers.
- Cell phones are not permitted in the in-school suspension room. If a student arrives to in-school suspension with his/her cell phone, it will be secured in the main office and returned to the student at the conclusion of the day.
- Students need to bring their pens, pencils, paper and school issued laptop (fully charged).
- Students will be escorted to the lavatory and cafeteria.
- In the event a student has medical dietary concerns, this must be made known to the Assistant Principal at the time the in-school suspension is assigned.
- Students will stay on task at all times. The student is expected to remain seated, quiet, awake and working on assignments throughout the day. Sleeping is prohibited.
- Respect to others must be shown at all times. No foul language, disruptive behavior or physical contact between students at any time.
- Computer games will not be permitted in ISS. Students who should have an assignment that requires the use of the computer will obey the policies set forth in the student Acceptable Use Policy set forth by the district.
- Failure to comply with the above regulations will result in removal from in-school suspension and further disciplinary actions.

Service Days: This is an opportunity for students to perform meaningful activities in lieu of disciplinary actions (at administrative discretion).

Out of School Suspension: This is for the most severe misconduct or continued willful disregard for school/classroom rules (Policy 5610).

Referral to Principal: Severe infractions or continued willful disobedience require a meeting with the principal, student and his/her parents/guardian.

Referral to Jefferson Township Police: A memorandum of agreement (MOA) exists between the Jefferson Township Board of Education and law enforcement agencies to keep each party informed of any illegal activity (Policy 9320).

Referral to the Board of Education: Continued severe infractions or continued willful disobedience requires a meeting with the superintendent and members of the Board of Education.

Pupil Rights and/or Pupils with Disabilities: see Policy 5700.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION CHART								
INFRACTION	DISPOSITION				REFER TO:			
<i>All infractions will include an Administrative Conference.</i>	Office Detention	Multiple Detentions	ISS	OSS	Prin.	SA C	JTPD	Supt
Late to School (per marking period)		6-9	10-15	16+	X			
Late to Class (3 infractions = 1 unexcused absence)		6-9	10-15	16+	X			
Cut Class (per cut) (cuts are unexcused absences)	1 st	2 nd	3 rd +		X			
Truancy			X		X		X	
Leaving Class w/o Permission	X	X	2 nd	3 rd +	X			
Leaving Building or Grounds w/o Permission (May result in loss of privileges, including parking).			X	X	X		X	
Hall Misconduct	X	X	X	X	X			
Inappropriate Behavior/Language	X	X	X	X	X			
Class/Assembly Disruption	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Failure to Identify			X	X	X			
Unauthorized Area		1 st	2 nd	3 rd +	X			
Physical Scuffle		X	X	X	X			
Fighting: Verbal/Physical			X	X	X		X	
Forgery/Cheating (including plagiarism and inappropriate use of AI) (May result in partial or complete loss of credit and/or loss of privileges)	X	X	X	X	X			
Bus Misconduct (May also result in loss of privileges)	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Parking Violation (May result in loss of privileges.)	X	X	X	X	X			
Cut Detention (make-up original detention plus additional detention)		X	X	X	X			
Cut/Removed from Saturday Detention (serve make-up detention plus additional disposition)			1 st	2 nd +	X			
Use of Electronic Devices	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th +	X			
Electronic Communication/Recording Device Violation			X	X	X			
Dress Code Violation (hats will be confiscated)	X	X	X	X+	X			

Acceptable Use Policy Violation (30 day loss of privileges per violation)	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Vandalism/Defacement		X	X	X	X		X	X
Theft/Extortion (restitution for damages or theft will be required)	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Weapons/Fireworks/Bombs/Lighting Instruments			X	X	X		X	X
Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Use of Tobacco Products (1 st = 2 ISS, 2 nd = 5 days OSS, 3 rd = 7 days OSS). Complaint filed in municipal court for all offenses.			1 st	2 nd + 3 rd	X	X	X	X
Possession/Distribution of Tobacco Products			X	X	X	X	X	X
Possession/Distribution of Drug Paraphernalia (including vaping products)			X	X	X	X	X	
Drugs & Alcohol: Under the Influence (see 5530r Substance Abuse)				X	X	X	X	X
Drugs & Alcohol: Possession/Distribution			X	X	X	X	X	X
Taking another student off school grounds without permission (may result in loss of privileges)			X	X	X	X		
Failure to follow any BOE or school policy/procedure			X	X	X	X		X
Parking without a Permit (May result in loss of privileges)	First two offenses may be ticketed. Third offense towed at owner's expense.				X		X	
<i>Frequency and/or severity of infractions dictate level of discipline.</i>								

Student Handbook/Parental Sign-Off

Your acknowledgment **on the Realtime parent and student portals** indicates that you have read this handbook and understand the contents within. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call the appropriate administrator.

It is the hope of the administration and faculty that the student body recognizes and appreciates the importance of the information contained in this Student Handbook. We strongly advise that you periodically review the Jefferson Township Website for revisions made to policies during the school year.

