



THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL  
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August 27, 2015

Dear TJ Spartan students and families,

Welcome back! TJ had a great year with so many accomplishments! We again set the bar very high for our students and they continue to rise to the challenges! We increased our overall attendance by 2.2%. We ended the year with a 91.6% daily attendance rate with the SPF expectation of 90% or higher, as meeting the standard. Tardies held steady at 1.1%. We improved in 14 out of 19 areas we tested for AP and we are holding steady with our ACT scores. We saw great growth in our spring finals overall.

At TJ, college and career readiness is at the forefront of everything we do so that all students are prepared for the challenges of post-secondary education – be it community college, technical school or the most elite colleges and universities around the world. Over 94% of all TJ grads pursue a post-secondary education. This year our goal is for most TJ students to graduate with college credit as a result of concurrent enrollment, Advance placement (AP) courses, ASCENT, or CLEP. We offer 18 concurrent enrollment courses through our Center for Communication Technology Magnet and Business/Marketing partnerships with Arapahoe Community College (ACC). We also offer on-and-off-campus, concurrent enrollment opportunities through CU Denver, Metro and ACC. We also offer Development Education classes in Math and English with Western State University. We're proud to offer 20 different AP courses for students in all grade levels.

As a school we will be in the 3rd year of a 5 year grant that aligns with TJ becoming an Early College high school. Last year the focus for a number of teachers was Write to Learn strategies and Classroom Talk; this year we will roll out 2 additional strategies: Small Group Collaboration and Scaffolding of Instruction. New this year, we will be working on accelerating students in math at the rate of their growth throughout the year. As we intentionally move forward in creating a college going culture, we will continue to have the Honor Roll and Academic Letterman assemblies during the school day. It was incredible to see how proud students were when their name was called, out in front of the entire school, to honor their academic achievements! These assemblies are also the time that we provide students with their current GPA, Colorado College Index and we explain how to read the documents to determine if they are on track to attend an in-state college, if they choose. These assemblies have really gotten students excited about their achievement and their futures!

Some new expectations for this year are as follows:

1. All students must wear their IDs at all times; no student will be issued either an excused or unexcused pass without an ID. Students have been told that wearing their ID is a way to make sure all teachers get to know all students, and is a safety measure, per our School Resource Officer (SRO) Tim Cueva. The IDs are provided at no cost to the student and replacements are \$5.00.

2. All students are expected to use their planners as a way to be and keep them organized as we continue to create a college going culture at TJ.

3. Seniors must have a 92% attendance rate in order to attend Senior Prom or the commencement ceremony. We all know that consistent attendance supports academic success.

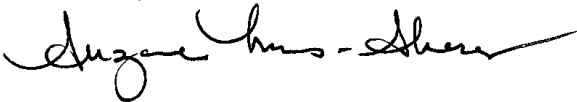
We will continue with the systems that have been in place and have proven to be effective in maximizing time for instruction and providing the environments that are conducive to the success of our students. We will continue to enforce the following:

- Tardy policy\*
- Attendance policy\*
- Strict dress codes\*
- Strict behavior expectations\*

\*These policies are clearly defined in the student handbook that is issued to each student, free of charge, and also on the TJ Journal website.

Thanks for your ongoing support of TJ. We look forward to meeting and seeing you at the Back to School and Information night on September 10, 2015 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. We will begin in the auditorium and there will be more on this as the date approaches.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Morris-Sherer

Principal

Thomas Jefferson High School