



THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE SPARTANS

2020 Did You Know?

Demographics:

- TJ is a just-right size comprehensive neighborhood high school located in Southeast Denver. Small enough to be known and large enough to offer variety.
- TJ celebrates diversity as a cornerstone of strong communities and informed, global perspectives.
- 2019-2020 student enrollment 1,230 (456 white, 431 Hispanic, 208 African American, 50 Asian, 2 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 7 American Indian, 76 multiple races).
- More and more neighborhood students are making TJ their school of choice. Approximately 66% of TJ's students live within the neighborhood boundary; 85% are from SE Denver.
- More than 62% of our faculty have Master's Degrees or greater.
- Many of our faculty are also alumni contributing to the sense of family and pride evident in the school.

Academics:

- TJ was one of only two comprehensive DPS high schools to be named to the National Rankings of *US News and World Report's* "Best High Schools 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020".
- More than 45% of TJ students take at least one AP class.
- ~60% of students taking AP tests scored a 3 or higher.
- Half of all TJ students are on academic honor roll with more than 40% of students maintaining a 3.0 GPA or higher.
- TJ's average SAT score is above the district, state, and national average.
- 100% of students who took CLEP tests earned 6-9 college credits.
- More than 45% of students enroll in Concurrent Enrollment with a greater than 80% pass rate.
- Over half of students surpassed DPS, State, and National averages on the English literacy and Math benchmarks on the PSAT.

Athletics:

- TJ offers 24 different sports including Unified Sports and has invested heavily in facility upgrades.
- TJ had 4 coaches receive DPL Coach of the Year in 2018-2019 & TJ has had 15 Coaches of the Year in the last three years.
- TJ student athletes maintained an average GPA of 3.44 & TJ student athletes received three quarters of a million dollars in scholarships last year.
- TJ's boys' lacrosse coach Jason Klimczak was named 2016 4A Metro Conference Coach of the Year in 2016 and DPS Coach of the Year in 2016, 2017, and 2018.
- TJ's girls' volleyball coach Erik Rhee was named Coach of the Year in 2017 after the team made State fall of 2016.
- TJ's New Head Football Coach, Mike Griebel, has over 30 years of experience coaching high school football and has led teams to 7 league titles and one state championship.
- TJ's swim coach Justine Sullivan was named 2016 & 2018 DPL Swim Coach of the Year.
- TJ girls' gymnastics won the 2015-2016 Denver Prep League title.
- TJ boys' basketball won two State Championships in 2005 and 2006, and six Great 8s and 13 Sweet 16 appearances from 2002-2019 with current head coach and alumni Grant Laman.
- TJ girls basketball coach Damion Allen was named DPS Coach of the Year in 2017 and has made state playoffs four consecutive years.
- TJ wrestling won four league titles from 2008-2013 and 2018
- TJ baseball coach Graham Baughn won All-Colorado Baseball Coach of the Year in 2017. The team won Denver Prep League titles from 2003-2008, 2010-2012, and again in 2016 & 2017
- TJ's boys' golf coach Stacey Fornstrom won Boys Golf Denver Prep League Coach of the Year in 2015-16.
- TJ boys' golf has had five individual state qualifiers since 2008.

Whole Child Student Supports

- Student Advisement Course Monday-Thursday engaging in Social Emotional Learning and College and Career Planning.
- Denver Health School-Based Clinic on site available to students, families, and community members
- 9th Grade transitions Counselor focused on supporting freshmen with transition to high school.

- Restorative Justice Program with two Restorative Justice Counselors and Dean of Culture
- TJ Talks Series- A series of specialized evening presentations, events, discussions for families and students: substance use and prevention, impact of ADHD, transitioning to college, etc.
- Student Leadership organizations including Young Men of Purpose, Black Student Alliance, Hispanic and Latino Club, Black Girls Rock, Native American Support Liaison, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, etc.
- Student Clubs and Activities including Ping Pong, GSA, Student Board of Education, Classical League, Geek Pride, Art Club, Creative Writing Club, and many others.

Student Career Organizations:

- DECA has doubled its membership with the addition of the Freshmen level Principles of Business/Marketing classes (from 80 members to 170 members)
- DECA State Officer for District 3 is a TJ Student
- Qualified more than 35 students for the State DECA Conference & 6 students qualified for the International Career Development Conference (Cancelled due to Covid) held in Nashville, TN
- DECA sponsored Adopt-A-Family Program broke the \$10K donation level last year, helping over 23+ families during the holiday season with gifts and food

Communications/Technology Magnet:

- TJ students were the first to produce an online newspaper, the award-winning TJ Journal.
- As a platform for the TJ Journal, TJ's website is unique due to its student-driven content.
- TJ's journalism program has won numerous national awards.
- Each day, students produce the "Spartan Edition", a 10-minute TV broadcast by students, for students.
- TJ has the largest robotics program in the state currently serving more than 130 students across seven classes.
- Our robotics students compete annually in state/regional/national competitions including First Robotics Challenge, BEST Robotics, and SeaPerch.
- 98% of CCT students enroll directly into college.
- 7 CCT courses offer concurrent enrollment credit (in which students receive both high school and college credit) through Arapahoe Community College.
- TJHS SkillsUSA was nationally recognized as a Model of Excellent Chapter for 2 consecutive years. Out of 19,000 chapters in the nation, we were one of the twenty-four Chapters to receive this award.
- For the last 3 years Colorado SkillsUSA has elected a TJ student to serve as a state officer.
- This year the president for SkillsUSA Colorado is a TJ student
- TJ has qualified and gone to SkillsUSA National competition in Kansas City and Louisville, KY the last 9 years.

Fun Facts:

- TJ is solar powered. The system produces up to 20% of the building's electrical demand. Visit http://live.deckmonitoring.com/?id=thomas_jefferson_high_school to check out live solar production data.
- Our TJ Community Garden is maintained by our Special Education students and provides food in the School garden to cafeteria program in addition to providing free vegetables to qualifying families.
- TJ composts due to our student led Sustainability Club
- TJ's building is shaped in a "T" and a "J".
- Each year, the Junior class does a day of team building and class bonding through a program called "Challenge Day".
- TJ's colors are gold and brown because those were the colors of the Denver Broncos when the school was founded in 1960.
- TJ seniors paint their parking spaces each fall as a special rite of passage and class fundraiser.
- Homecoming Spirit Week kicks off with fun events including theme days, a bonfire, and tailgate to the football game.