This booklet is dedicated to Dr. Jim Fujita (retired in June 2005). For many years Dr. Fujita was the leader of the TJ Human Relations Committee. At one meeting in the spring of 2005 a suggestion was made, which culminated in this booklet being prepared.

Written and Edited by TJ PTSA Parent Volunteers

April 2006
Updated April 2014
Anchor Day - every Monday is an Anchor Day, which means all students have all classes periods 1 through 8. This is the day students will complain that their backpacks are way too heavy.

ANGP – All Night Grad Party - Senior class parents, with significant support from underclass parents, host this party after graduation. It begins the hour after commencement (graduation) and goes through dawn. Due to construction, off site locations are rented and transformed by decorations and sound into a themed party extravaganza. Students celebrate their achievements in a safe, alcohol and drug-free environment with discreet security (parent volunteers) ensuring only TJ students are admitted. Almost the entire graduating class attends this awesome event!

Asking Week – the 2 weeks before homecoming where students ask their dates to accompany them to the homecoming dance. Commonly seen are students dressed up and walking around with flowers, chocolates, or other various gifts to woo their dates with sometimes elaborate and complicated askings.

Athletics – “We Came for the Sports” – originally conceived as a way of poking fun at the supposed totally academically focused TJ student, this slogan each year seems to become more true. Many TJ sports teams win top awards and championships from the county to the national level. Many individual athletes have been named Washington Post All-Met Athletes. Colonialathletics.org

AudLob – the bustling core (perhaps the heart) of the school is the Audlob - the lobby area between the main auditorium and Gym 1. Due to the renovation, it is the temporary location of TJ HSST’s front office and the temporary main entrance is entry door 8. Access to the music and drama wing is to the side of the Audlob.

Back to School Night – an important and well attended evening at TJ HSST, usually scheduled in late September or early October. Parking onsite at TJ is limited due to construction, so TJ provides a shuttle bus that runs from the parking lots of nearby locations and there are two sessions divided by grade with a PTSA meeting in between the session. Parents attend short session to meet your child’s teachers. You need to bring or pick up a copy of your student’s schedule. You can also join the PTSA and pick up for TJ phone directory (put together by PTSA volunteers) at that time.

Bells - there are no bells used to signal the end of periods. The only loud ringing noise is the fire alarm, which must be obeyed.

Big Sibs – student volunteers are matched with incoming freshmen to provide support and answer questions during the first few weeks of school. The main
activity occurs in the afternoon of Freshman Orientation Day (usually the Friday before the school year begins).

**Blue Day** - every Tuesday is Blue Day. Students attend classes for periods 1, 2, 3 and 4. Periods 1 and 3 last for 95 minutes and periods 2 and 4 last for 90 minutes.

**Booster Groups** - Academic teams, Athletic Teams, Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Theatre and Crew all have booster groups. These boosters provide support to the students, their teacher sponsors, and raise money for the activity.

**CC** - College/Career Center, located in room 243, has information about colleges, financial aid, careers, summer jobs/internships, after school jobs, tutoring requests and more for students and parents. Parent volunteers are always hard at work here, supporting the director of the College Career Center.

**Class Rank** - No class rank is computed, estimated or published at TJ or at any high school in Fairfax County.

**Cluster** - Fairfax County Public Schools groups base high schools into eight clusters. At TJ, the PTSA appoints a parent “cluster rep” to work with families within their cluster, and to hold a welcome party for newly admitted students and their parents. The gatherings offer a chance to meet with other students. They’ll also meet some older students and perhaps members of the TJ staff to hear anecdotes and other snippets of valuable knowledge about life at TJ HSST.

Cluster I  Hemdon, Langley and McLean pyramids
Cluster II  Falls Church, Madison and Marshall pyramids
Cluster III  TJ, Annandale, Stuart and Woodson pyramids
Cluster IV  Hayfield, Mt Vemon and West Potomac pyramids
Cluster V  Edison, Lee and South County pyramids
Cluster VI  Lake Braddock, Robinson and West Springfield pyramids
Cluster VII  Centreville, Chantilly and Fairfax High School pyramids
Cluster VIII Oakton, South Lakes and Westfield High pyramids

TJ students who live outside Fairfax County are grouped by county. The names and contact information of the cluster/county reps are listed in the TJ Phone Directory, which is produced by the PTSA and included as part of PTSA membership. The cluster/county reps look forward to helping freshmen and their families assimilate into the TJ experience – please contact them with your questions and concerns.

**Compsci** - commonly used to describe the mandatory Computer Science class.
Curriculum Fair – attended by freshmen and sophomores during school around February. Students learn about course offerings to select classes for next year.

DSS – the abbreviation for the Department of Student Services. The DSS takes care of all student issues (e.g., counseling, course scheduling, transcripts, disciplinary problems).

Eighth Period – occurs on Monday, Wednesday and Friday (see Red Day). A variety of activities are offered, ranging from academic (e.g., Physics team) to community service (e.g., tutoring). Some of these activities would be offered as after-school activities at most high schools, but TJ has fewer after-school clubs as long bus commutes would not allow many students to participate.

FLE – FCPS requires that all schools offer Family Life Education classes. Parents have the opportunity to have their student “opt out” of this class.

Froshmore – this is the name given to a student who enters TJ as a sophomore.

Geosystems – makes up the fourth of the required four years of science for a TJ HSST diploma (biology, chemistry, physics, geosystems). It combines the study of geology, astronomy, oceanography and meteorology.

Gravel Parking Lot – the new parking lot for seniors, located at the end of the access road, past the football field.

Greenhouse – is located in the inner courtyard near the science wing. It is used primarily by Biology teachers and the Greenhouse Club.

GUM – the new integrated teamed class started in 2013/14 that combines German foreign language class with world history.

Hall marches – the loud music you hear being played throughout hallways each Friday morning of a home football game when TJ’s marching band plays and parades around inside the school.

Homecoming – this week of activities in the fall culminates with the Friday evening football home game and Saturday evening homecoming dance. The SGA (Student Government Association) declares an overall theme for homecoming. The days leading up to Homecoming are known as Spirit Week. There are pep rallies and competitions between the classes for most spirit. During halftime at the football game, each class parades their float (often the
result of weeks of work in the garage of a family who lives near TJ). Some students attend the dance in groups and some with a date.

**HRC** – Human Relations Committee – meets monthly to discuss the social climate of the school. Members include representatives from the administration, faculty, and parents.

**HUM** - English and History classes are teamed during sophomore and junior years. In 10th grade, about 30 students take English and World History and Geography 2 classes together, usually in consecutive periods. In 11th grade, English is paired with either AP US History or US History.

**BET** - this combination (integration) of classes in Biology, English and Technology occurs in freshman year. Students are grouped together so they are seeing the same faces for three out of their eight periods.

**Intranet** – TJ’s online student portal that is accessed with student ID and password (https://iodine.tjhsst.edu). Through intranet, students receive updates about school events and changes, sign up for 8th period activities, and look up other student’s contact information.

**J-Day** - occurs in the late spring after all the tests (AP, SOL etc) are finished. It is a fun afternoon event when 8th period clubs have a “booth” to advertise their clubs, raise money, and hopefully attract new members for the next year.

**J-Lounge** - is a random area in the building where some juniors hang out during lunch. Due to the renovation, it’s currently located near gym 2.

**Jefferson Society** - these students are trained to act as tour guides for the many groups and VIPs who visit our school during the year.

**JLC Day** - the Jefferson Learning Community occurs each Thursday morning from 8:00am to 8:50am while faculty meets. Student bus schedules run as normal, but students who drive or get rides to school in cars may arrive at 9 am. Students use this time to socialize, buy and eat breakfast snacks, or study. Parent volunteers help provide supervision. Period 1 classes begin at 9:00am and run on a modified blue schedule.

**KIT**- Keep In Touch is a Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) system that sends families emails with information from FCPS and the TJ HSST principal. To sign up for Keep In Touch, go to [http://www.fcps.edu/kit/](http://www.fcps.edu/kit/)

**Learning Cottages** - due to construction, TJ has many trailers that serve as classrooms. Trailers are placed in parking areas, on the old tennis courts, and
behind nearby Weyanoke Elementary School. There is even a newly installed bathroom trailer for students to use while outside in the “learning cottages”.

**Lock-In** - this freshman class overnight event is held in the springtime on a Friday night. Due to construction, the lock-in event has been moved off site. Freshman students enjoy an overnight stay and engage in activities such as: a dance, bouncing castle, DDR, card and board games, regular snack breaks or take a snooze in the quiet room. Light breakfast foods and juices are provided before the students are picked up by their parents the next morning. Parent chaperones and some TJ faculty are present the entire time.

**Lost and Found Club** - detention for students who do not show up for three 8th period activities over a certain period of time. Started in 2007.

**Lunch** - all students eat lunch at the same time in the cafeteria, the corridors, the audlob, or outside in the courtyards when the weather is pleasant.

**Mentorship** - all seniors have a one-credit requirement for science and technology research. Most seniors fulfill this requirement at TJ in one of the senior tech labs, but some substitute an external mentorship, where they work with scientists or engineers in private, state, or federal offices and laboratories. Mentorship students generally are released early from school on certain days of the week and work 10-15 hours a week at their mentorship location.

**Namaste** - one of several cultural clubs that meet in the 8th period, Namaste is designed to celebrate the richness and culture of Southern Asia (India).

**One Question** - In the 2009-2010 academic year, TJ inaugurated a new initiative, in which the whole school community focused on One Question. That is explored throughout the year in classes, 8th period activities, speaker series, research projects, a seminar course, etc.

**PALS** - a series of verbal and written tests that foreign language students take several times a year.

**Parking** - with the arrival of the learning cottages, TJ has a shortage of parking spaces. During the school day, visitors are asked to park in one of the few marked visitor spaces in the small lot across from entrance door #8. Visitors and volunteers can park in the gravel lot past the football fields or can park along the right side of the access road from 9:15am – 3:00pm only. Faculty and students must display a parking permit to park in their allocated spaces. Regularly scheduled volunteers should see the security office for a laminated volunteer pass. Security office personnel will issue “parking infringement” notices with fines. Parking rules change frequently due to the renovation.
**Partnership Fund** - established in 1999, this nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization raises money to equip and maintain laboratories and classrooms in the school that cannot be met by FCPS or state funding.  [http://tjppartnershipfund.org/](http://tjppartnershipfund.org/)

**Planetarium** – TJ’s planetarium is used by senior research laboratory students as well as astronomy classes.

**Powder Puff** – the football season includes a day for the powder puff football game followed by the powder puff dance. Roles are reversed where teams of senior and junior girls play football while the boys are the cheerleaders.

**Principal’s Coffee** – the PTSA hosts two principal’s coffees before the start of the official PTSA meetings twice a year, in the school cafeteria.

**PTSA** – the Parent Teacher Student Association provides extensive support to the students, faculty and administrators. Please support us. Click here [https://www.tjhsst.edu/parents-community/ptsa/] to join for $25 and get a free TJ School Directory.

**Quick** – although four years may seem like a long time to an incoming freshman, most seniors in the fourth quarter of their last year will tell you the time passed very quickly.

**Red Day** – every Wednesday and Friday is Red Day. Students attend classes for 95 minutes in periods 5 and 7 and a 90 minute period 6. Period 8 is broken into two 40 minute blocks. (See entry for Eighth Period)

**Reflections** – an arts contest for grades K-12 sponsored by the National Parent Teacher Association. See [http://www.vapta.org/resources/for-students/resources-reflections.html](http://www.vapta.org/resources/for-students/resources-reflections.html) for more information.

**Sadie Hawkins’ Dance** – usually held in February as a class fundraiser. Sadie’s tradition is that the girls ask the boys to the dance.

**School Directory** – produced annually by the PTSA and included when you join as a member of the PTSA, this book contains contact information for students, faculty, staff, PTSA committees, as well as other helpful information. It is intended for the personal use of TJ families and staff for school-related purposes only.

**Senior Lounge or “slounge”** – random area where some seniors hang out during lunch. Due to the renovation, it has been located on the second floor.

**Senior Tech lab** – a mandatory class in senior year, which gives each student the chance to design and conduct a research project. Also see Mentorship.
**Soc Hop** – the name given to the school dances mostly held in the football season on Friday night home games. These events are usually sponsored by a class and are chaperoned by parents and faculty.

**Syslab** – this is the name given to the computer systems laboratory. This is the “nerve center” for the entire school computer system. The laboratory is also home to the Cray computer (the super computer).

**Tech cetera** – the monthly PTSA newsletter contains information on TJ happenings, awards, upcoming events and people. It is available online at http://www.tjhsst.edu/parents-community/ptsa/newsletter.htm.

**Teknos** – an annual award winning journal of science, mathematics and technology which publishes the research works of the students.

**Telelearn** – a day of school where TJ students can stay at home in their pajamas and complete online assignments in all 7 classes at any time during the day. Telelearn day usually occurs on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, the day of Back to School night, and can be used for snow makeup days (if it falls at the end of a grading period).

**This Week @ TJ** – a popular weekly online newsletter put out by the PTSA that highlights upcoming events, activities, and important news to parents. To subscribe, email thisweek@tjhsst.edu.

**Threshold** – an annual collection of poetry, fiction, drawings and other writings by both students and faculty, published annually.

**tjSTAR** – a day-long school-wide science symposium at the end of each school year. Students discuss their research projects at TJ, explore future research options, and attend programs sponsored by local companies.

**tjToday** – TJ HSST’s award-winning student newspaper. Paper copies are published monthly and the online version which is updated more frequently can be found at tjtoday.org

**Tommy the Mascot** – TJ’s mascot is Thomas Jefferson, a.k.a. Tommy. You will find this very large headed President of the United States wearing colonial clothing and black buckled shoes at all home football games. He pumps up the crowd and gets everyone to cheer. For every TJ touchdown, Tommy and the cheerleaders will be doing pushups to support our team.

**Underclassmen** – Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors
Valedictorian - there is no valedictorian of the TJ HSST graduating class.

Viennese Ball - a lovely dance that is put on every year by the orchestra.

Volunteers - We need you! TJ relies VERY heavily on parent volunteers. Please help. There are opportunities to work during school hours, after school hours, and on the weekends, at school or at home. [http://www.scribedoc.com/mediastuff/index.html]

Webassign - weekly physics homework assignments that are submitted online.

Crosscountry - one of the many athletic pursuits available to TJ students.

Yearbook - an 8th period activity open to all students. The staff includes students and the faculty sponsor; any student may contribute photos and submissions to the yearbook.

Zzzs - The National Sleep Foundation says that teens need 8.5-9.25 hours of sleep per night. Most teens, including those at TJ need more sleep.

Editorial Note

The purpose of this guide is to explain the day to day activities/novelties of our school. Several 8th period clubs were included because their names were particularly intriguing or because there were few entries under that individual alphabetical category. Non-inclusion of a club, sport, foreign language, or activity in no way means it is not a valued part of the school community; rather it was an attempt to keep this guide to a reasonable number of pages.