APPLYING to TJ
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

Who can apply?
- 8th grade students taking Algebra or a more advanced math
- 8th graders interested in math, science, and technology
- 8th graders with a minimum 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) 7th and 8th grade

Important Dates:
- Monday, Sept 21, 4:00 pm, On-line application available on TJAdmissions.org
- Wednesday, Sept. 30, 7:00 pm, TJ Admissions Info Session, TMS Media Center
- Friday, Oct 9, Initial Application deadline (must begin app due to internal processing.)
- Friday, Oct 16, 4:00 pm, Final Application Deadline, LATE NOT ACCEPTED!
- Saturday, Dec 5, 8:30 am, Math Test Day! (you pick the site)
- Friday, Jan 15, Semi-finalist Notification
- Friday, Jan 22, Semifinalists must enter names for Teacher recommendations
- Saturday, Jan 23, SIS (Student information Sheet) and Essay Test Day (same site)
- Saturday, April 2, 9-12 pm, TJ Open House @ Holmes MS, TJ being renovated!
- By April 30, Final Notification of Finalists
- More dates to come . . . See TJ admissions website and listen to announcements...

How do I apply?
- On-line at www.TJAdmissions.org – get updates and results immediately!
  - Click Apply to TJHSST, Freshman Winter, Class of 2020 App Info, scroll to Apply here
  - Use your school network user name and password
  - Math Verification may take a few days, be patient
  - No computer at home – easy to do at school, Ms. Lee will help!
- Paper application – must request from TJ admissions (better to do on-line app)
  - If submitting paper application or money order payment DO NOT leave in a box – HAND it to Ms. Lee. DO NOT send it to TJ.

How to prepare for the test:
- Practice basic math WITHOUT a calculator (cannot use a calculator on the TJ Test)
- Take a practice test
  - Click Forms/Documents; Freshman Winter Round Class of 2020, Admissions Test!
- Alternate test days, Medical or Religious reason, must provide proof

More application info at www.TJAdmissions.org and the TJ website www.tjhsst.edu
**Tips for applying on-line**

- Complete with parent to be sure all information (especially e-mails) are entered correctly. Parent can only log in through email from TJ/FCPS.
- Not getting e-mails once you start the application process? Check junk mail for emails from Fairfax County Public Schools.
- Some information will be pre-loaded on application. If incorrect, see Ms. Lee.
- Don’t have two e-mails or two phone numbers? You can use same email or phone number for “alternate.”
- Site works on computer, not mobile device. You can use computers in library.
- If applying on-line, you must pay using credit/debit card, e-check, or money order (made out to Fairfax County Public Schools).
- Some work/govt computers/Blackberrys will not let you submit payment.
- Once you are finished, you will get confirmation on the website and a confirmation e-mail that you have successfully submitted the application. You can get a copy of all emails on the application site under “correspondence.”
- If you forget your password, see Ms. Lee.
- For problems with the on-line application, click Help/Contact Us and either call OR fill out the help form, please don’t do both (and do not call TJ for help with the application, they can only answer questions about TJ).

**How to Prepare for the Essay and SIS if you are a semi-finalist**

- Read a lot! Write a lot!
- Learn about writing a good STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) Essay
  - Click Documents; Freshman Winter Round Class of 2019, Semifinalists Materials
- Practice timed writing (2 hours to write SIS and Essays... PRACTICE!)

**Tips for asking for a letter of recommendation if you are a semi-finalist**

- Ask early, ask nicely, can be 7th or 8th grade teacher, at least one math/science.
- Be sure they are comfortable writing a letter for you (do they know you well?).
- Ask a teacher who knows about your STEM passion (which teacher is best?).
- Provide the teacher with reminders about what you did in class and about your STEM performance in class.

Questions? See the Admissions website first. Still need help? Write Ms. Lee a note and put it in my box or send me an email JKLEE@fcps.edu. If you need help applying on-line at school, e-mail Me. Lee or write me a note, I can help you use a school computer to apply.

More application info at www.TJAdmissions.org and the TJ website www.tjhsst.edu

Semi-Finalist notification Fri, Jan 15  
Final notification on/before April 30