2021-2022
Profile for Thomas Jefferson School

Program Highlights

➢ CORE CURRICULUM: The program focuses on key college-prep areas (English, math, ancient and modern languages, science, social studies, and fine arts) with few electives. It is among the most challenging programs nationally.

➢ COURSE LOAD: Students take five academic courses per year in grades 11 and 12 (six in grades 7 through 10), including two one-semester fine-arts courses.

➢ WORKLOAD AND AUTONOMY: Short seminar-style classes center on discussion, debate, and problem solving, not lecture. Students bear responsibility for serious daily assignments with much autonomy in the use of afternoon and evening time for academic work and activities.

➢ AP COURSES: A typical student graduating in 2021 is limited to seven AP classes, all of which are required: two in grade 10, two in grade 11, and three in grade 12; students accelerated in math take an additional AP class. AP is the only level for English, science, and social studies courses in grades 11 and 12. Taking the AP exam is optional.

➢ ENGLISH: English classes are built around reading and discussion of classic and modern literature: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, philosophy, and drama (including two plays by Shakespeare every year). A year-round daily writing program builds composition and self-editing skills.

➢ FINE ARTS: Students are required to take two semester-long fine-arts electives each year in the visual or performing arts.

➢ LANGUAGES: Students take a six-year sequence of world languages, both classical and modern: Latin in grades 7-8, Ancient Greek in grades 9-10, and French or Italian in high school. The two-year modern-language sequence is equivalent to college-level introductory and intermediate courses.

➢ MATH: Math is required every year, starting with Algebra 1 in grade 7 and going through AP Calculus BC or AP Statistics. A student advanced in math may complete the math sequence with an AP math course in an earlier year.

➢ SCIENCE: All students take one or more AP lab sciences. These are preceded by a sequence of accelerated introductory courses in major scientific areas: chemistry, biology, and physics.

➢ SOCIAL STUDIES: All students follow a three-year geography and world-history sequence in grades 7-9 and then begin AP social-science classes with AP U.S. Government & Politics in grade 10. AP U.S. History is required for U.S. citizens in 12th grade. AP electives include either AP Economics or AP Comparative Government (offered in alternating years) in grades 11 or 12.

Thomas Jefferson School Profile, 2021-2022

Contact
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At a Glance
CEEB Code: 263105

School type: Independent, co-ed, boarding and day; grades 7-12; academically rigorous, liberal-arts curriculum

School size: 82 students, 13 full-time faculty; 2 adjunct faculty

Size of graduating class: 17

Percentage of graduating class attending a four-year college: 100%

Percentage of students receiving financial aid: 43%

Percentage of ethnic minorities (U.S. citizens): 31%

Percentage of international students: 27%

Median ACT/SAT Scores (class of 2016-2022)
ACT Composite: 31
SAT Reading & Writing: 700
SAT Math: 750

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Academic and Grading Context

Thomas Jefferson School runs on a quarter system, and Letter grades are awarded four times per year. All core courses are a full-year in length, and only year-end grades appear on the transcript unless others are requested.

**Grading Standard:** The grading standard at TJ is highly rigorous. A's represent work that is exceptional in both quality and consistency. The top grade in a course may be B+ or A-. The grade of A+ is not awarded. Our three levels of academic distinction speak to our grading standards:

- **Cum Laude** - Students achieving grades in ALL subjects at B- or better.
- **Magna Cum Laude** - Students achieving grades in ALL subjects at B+ or better.
- **Summa Cum Laude** - To earn this distinction, a student must end the quarter with ALL grades at A- or better. In recent years this group has represented the top ten percent of all TJ students.

**GPAs at Thomas Jefferson School:** TJ reports a weighted GPA on a 4.0 scale in which courses with the AP designation as well as those Junior and Senior courses that carry the same workload and expectations as AP classes receive an extra point. All other classes (including fine-arts courses) are weighted on the traditional 4.0 scale.

- The highest possible GPA for a typical student is 4.4. Only four students have ever obtained an unweighted 4.0 in four years of high school (all straight As).

**Ranking Policy:** Thomas Jefferson School does not rank its students.

**Discipline Policy:** In keeping with our commitment to integrity in the College Admissions process, and consistent with the NACAC Statement of Good Principles of Practice, we require our students to respond honestly to questions about their disciplinary history.

**Matriculations to Colleges and Universities**

Listed below are the colleges and universities at which Thomas Jefferson School graduates have matriculated from 2016-2021.

- Allegheny College
- American University (2)
- Beloit College
- Berklee College of Music
- Boston College
- Bowdoin College (2)
- Bradley University (2)
- CSU-Northridge
- Case Western Reserve University
- Central Methodist University
- Clemson University
- Cornell College (2)
- DePaul University
- DePauw University
- Fashion Inst. of Design & Merch. (CA)
- Florida International University
- Florida Southern College
- Fordham University
- Franklin & Marshall College
- Grinnell College
- Haverford College (2)
- Illinois Wesleyan University
- Johns Hopkins University (3)
- Kansas State University
- Kenyon College
- Kettering University
- Knox College (2)
- Lake Forest College
- Macalester College
- Middlebury College
- Mount Holyoke College
- Northwestern University (2)
- New York University (6)
- NYU - Abu Dhabi
- Purdue University
- Rice University
- University of Rochester
- St. Louis University
- St. Louis College of Pharmacy (2)
- Smith College (3)
- SUNY-Purchase
- Swarthmore College
- University of Aberdeen
- UC-Irvine (2)
- UC-San Diego
- UC-Santa Barbara
- University of Chicago (3)
- UI-Chicago
- UI-Urbana-Champaign
- University of Iowa
- University of Kansas (2)
- University of Miami (FL)
- UM-Kansas City
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Tampa
- UT-Austin
- University of Tennessee-Martin
- University of Utah
- University of Wisconsin-Madison (3)
- Washington University (6)
- Webster University
- Whitman College
- Williams College