



Mentorship
2025-26
Thomas
Jefferson
High School
for
Science
&
Technology

BE A STEM MENTOR FOR A TJHSST SENIOR STUDENT

For more information
contact:

Andrea Cobb, Ph.D.
Mentorship Program Director
kacobb@fcps.edu

Benefits to Mentors and their Institutions

- Letters of appreciation from mentees document mentor outreach and impact for grant applications, tenure, etc.
- Connections to recruit future students, interns, and employees.
- Inclusion in the TJHSST community, STEM networking, and events.
- Talented STEM workers who bring enthusiasm, specialized skills, academic success, and professionalism.
- The Mentorship Course helps students meet high expectations for defined goals through regular assignments graded with feedback from the Mentorship Program Director.
- The Mentorship Program Director supports mentors and their staff with thorough, timely information and interaction opportunities.

THE TJHSST MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

To qualify as candidates for Mentorship interviews and participation, TJHSST students must have demonstrated a consistent record of STEM enthusiasm and participation throughout their high school careers, excellent attendance, ethical and professional behavior, academic excellence, and maturity beyond their peers.

- Astronomy / Astrophysics
- Molecular Biology
- Biotechnology
- Biomedicine
- Bioinformatics
- Engineering
- Automation and Robotics
- Energy Systems
- Prototyping / CAD
- Computer Systems
- Programming
- Chemical Analysis and Nanochemistry
- Artificial Intelligence / Image Analysis
- Data Analysis
- Mobile and Web Application Development
- Neuroscience
- Oceanography
- Geophysical Systems
- Environmental Science
- Statistical Analysis / Higher Mathematics
- Quantum Physics and Optics

WHO SHOULD MENTOR?

- STEM-related professionals and practitioners with ongoing projects or new project ideas can participate as primary mentors or co-mentors.
- Mentors may work remotely with students, in person at their worksite, or through combined remote and in-person work.
- Mentors should have STEM expertise and a record of success and satisfaction in training others. Primary mentors may invite co-mentors who are colleagues, staff, or advanced graduate students to work more closely or at different times with the mentorship student than can the primary mentor.
- Current and former mentors are encouraged to forward this information about being a TJHSST Mentorship Program mentor to colleagues. Mentors and/or co-mentors should meet at least one hour/week with their mentorship student(s). During the academic year, students work on their projects on Monday afternoons and all day on Wednesdays and Fridays. Mentorship students work 18 hours per typical M-F week on projects/research.
- No payment is provided to mentors or mentorship students for their participation.
- Mentors provide access to necessary institutional onboarding, project training, materials, and methodology.
- Before working regularly with their student(s), mentors will complete and submit a standard volunteer background check form to the contracted vendor for Fairfax County Public Schools. There is no cost to the mentor for the background check. The volunteer background check does require free fingerprinting, which may be done at the Fairfax County Public Schools' Gatehouse Administrative Center in Falls Church, VA, or in a conveniently located FieldPrint office.

INTERESTED?

Check out the [TJHSST Mentorship Program: Guide for Mentors](#)

- I. 2024-2025 Mentorship Program contact information
- II. Program overview
- III. Potential benefits to mentors and their institutions
- IV. Who can mentor?
- V. Mentorship student projects
- VI. Project outcomes
- VII. Mentorship program logistics
- VIII. Mentorship program expectations for mentors
- IX. Expectations for TJHSST mentorship students
- X. Overview of the Mentor-student matching and acceptance process
- XI. Mentor agreement form
- XII. After the Mentor and student have agreed to work together

GENERAL RESEARCH INTERESTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2026 MENTORSHIP CANDIDATES

This year we have 68 students that have expressed an interest in our program. The numbers for each area are:

- **Astronomy / astrophysics**.....3
- **Biotechnology / life sciences**.....21
- **Chemical Analysis / nanotech**.....5
- **Combined Engineering**8
- **Computer Systems**8
- **Mobile & Web App development**.....7
- **Neuroscience**.....10
- **Oceanography / geophysical sys**.....2
- **Quantum mechanics / Optics**.....7
- **Total**68