



Class
2022

TJ Admissions

Prospective 9th
graders

<https://www.fcps.edu/tjadmissions>



AGENDA

Overview of TJHSST

Freshman Admissions Process

- Part 1 - Steps of Application
- Part 2 - Writing Components
- Part 3 - Selection Process
- Calendar of Events

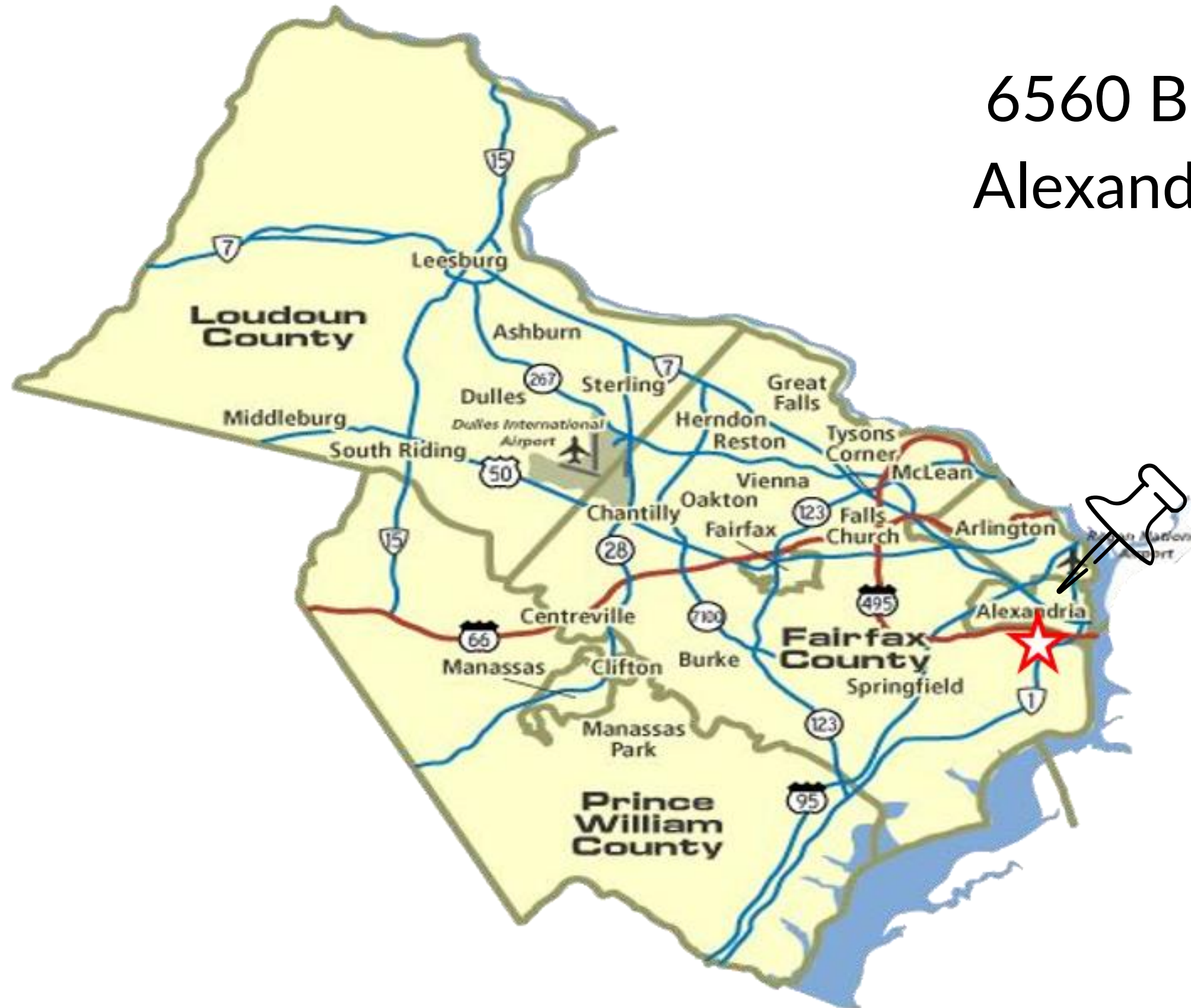
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

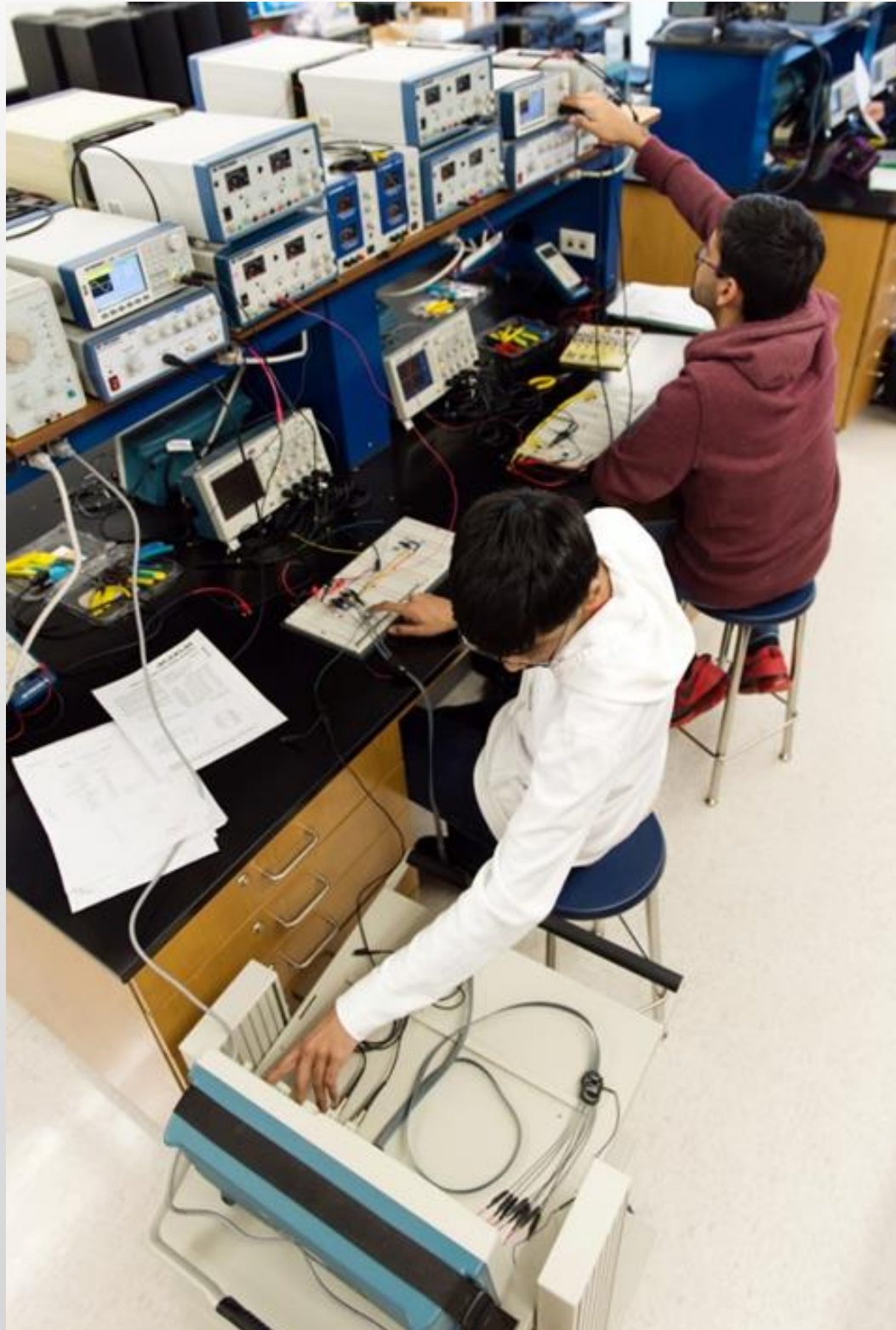
TJHSST Mission Statement

- “The mission of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology is to provide students a challenging learning environment focused on math, science, and technology, to inspire joy at the prospect of discovery, and to foster a culture of innovation based on ethical behavior and the shared interests of humanity.”

Where is TJ?

6560 Braddock Road
Alexandria, VA 22312





What Makes TJ Different?

1. Regional Governor's School for Science and Technology
2. Students must apply to attend
3. All core courses taught on Honors, AP, or post-AP level
4. Research-based learning beginning in 9th grade that focuses on connecting ideas and creating flexible class time.



IBET

Integrated Biology, English, and Tech

Flexible class time, cohorts build a peer community, research project and symposium, collaborative group work in multiple interdisciplinary projects



Research-Based Learning

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) - Related Electives and Activities



Senior Research Laboratories

- Astronomy and Astrophysics
- Biotechnology and Life Sciences
- Chemical Analysis and Nanochemistry
- Computer Systems
- Combined Engineering
- Mobile and Web Application Development
- Neuroscience and Experimental Psychology Research
- Oceanography and Geographical Systems
- Quantum Physics and Optics

Research Practicum - Students may select independent research and experimentation, and interaction with professionals from the scientific, engineering, technological, and industrial communities. This is an off-site opportunity for seniors.



More than Research

- Comprehensive High School
- Electives in all subjects
- Fine and Performing Arts
- Physical Education and Driver's Ed
- World Languages
 - Chinese, French, German, Latin, Spanish





Eighth Period

- In-School activity periods Wednesdays and Fridays
- Each week has four sections to choose from clubs and academic supports
- Over 180 clubs, such as Underwater ROV, Medical Society, Rocketry, Model UN



Extracurriculars

- Competitive VHSL teams (e.g. soccer, field hockey, volleyball)
- Fine and Performing Arts (e.g. band, orchestra, theatre)



Family Considerations

Commute	Most students take the bus from a centrally-located depot. The bus stop may not be walking distance from your home and may make commute times quite lengthy.
Length of School Day	TJ's bell schedule is from 8:40 - 4:10, making it 45 minutes longer than a typical high school.
Electives Unique to TJ	Bionanotechnology, Machine Learning, Computer Vision, Energy Systems, Differential Equations, Marine Science Techniques
Academic Supports	Academic Help Centers during the school day, inclusive classrooms, integrated group- and project-based humanities courses, fast-paced semesterised courses

Required Coursework at TJ

- Typical 9th Grade Courses – IBET (Biology, English, Technology [Design & Tech]), Math, Health & PE, World Language, Elective
- Course Flexibility – The curriculum is designed to be a rigorous programmatic approach to STEM, therefore there is limited ability to deviate from the set coursework described.
- See TJHSST link below for Course Planning Resources:
- <https://tjhsst.fcps.edu/student-services/curricular-resources>

TJ Advanced Studies Diploma Graduation Requirements

- English (4 credits)
- Math (4 credits that does not include Algebra 1)
- Lab Science (4 credits)
- Social Studies (4 credits)
- World Language (3 credits consecutive years in same language or 3 credits on the WLC Exam)
- Health & PE (2 credits)
- Fine Arts or Career & Tech Ed (1 credit)
- Economics & Personal Finance (1 credit)
- Electives (3 credits)

What is TJ Admissions looking for?

- Evidence of academic achievement
- Demonstration of 21st century skills (Portrait of a Graduate)
- Demonstration of genuine interest, curiosity, and/or creativity in the areas of STEM

Eligibility Requirements for FCPS

- Enrolled in 8th grade to apply for 9th grade
- Residency in a participating school division
 - Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, City of Falls Church
- Enrolled in Honors Algebra 1 or higher in 8th grade
- Enrolled in Honors Science in 8th grade
- One additional Honors course
- 3.5 GPA in core classes
 - Unweighted grades

Eligibility Requirements for All Jurisdictions

- To be eligible for consideration, applicants must: (1) have completed a full-year course of Algebra 1, or be currently enrolled in a full-year course of honors-level Algebra 1; applicants attending schools whose curricular programs do not include “honors” Algebra 1 courses must have completed or be enrolled in a full-year course of the highest level of Algebra 1 available at their school; (2) be enrolled in honors science; applicants attending schools whose curricular programs do not include “honors” science must be enrolled in the highest level of 8th grade science available at their school; (3) be enrolled in honors course in social studies or English/language arts, or identified as a “Young Scholar”; applicants attending schools whose curricular programs do not include “honors” courses in social studies or English/language arts must be enrolled in the highest level course available at their school in either social studies or English/language arts or identified as Young Scholar or identified as having advanced academic potential through a similar program designed to nurture such potential in students from underserved or disadvantaged backgrounds; and (4) have a 3.5 or higher GPA in all core academic courses (math, science, social studies, English/language arts, and if taken for high school credit, world language) at the time of application.

Application Access: www.fcps.edu/tjadmissions



STEPS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

1. The applicant must access the Log-In Screen prior to the parent and complete the initial log-in process that includes entry of a parent name and email address.



2. Parent receives an auto-generated email to log-in and create the parent account.



3. TJ Liaison Counselor from applicant's school verifies math course. (Allow minimum 24 to 48 hours for this to be completed.) An email is sent to applicant and parent after verification advising they should finish and submit the application.

STEPS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION – Cont'd

4. The applicant logs into the applicant account and completes the applicant portion of Page 7.



5. The parent logs into the parent account and completes the parent portion of Page 7.



6. Submit application.



7. The following automated message will be received upon submission, “This is to confirm that your application has been submitted.”

Eligibility Requirements for FCPS

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TJHSST Freshman Application Process



Available October 20, 2025, at 4:00 pm

First Screen of Application



Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

Admissions

Welcome


Please select one of the options below and click "Next" to proceed to the designated login area.

- I am a student living in one of the five participating jurisdictions (Arlington, Fairfax, City of Falls Church, Loudoun or Prince William), enrolled in Algebra 1 or higher and applying to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST).**
Selecting this button will display the Applicant Portal Log In Page allowing the student to log into the TJHSST Admissions Online System and complete the online application process.
- I am the Parent/Guardian of a student applying to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST).**
Selecting this button will display the Applicant Portal Parent/Guardian Log-In Page allowing the parent/guardian to log into the TJHSST Admissions online system and assist your Applicant in the completion of their online application process.

Next

Second Screen of Application (Log-In Page)

Home TJ Admissions TJHSST FCPS Help Contact Us

 Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
Admissions

Applicant Portal

Log-In

If you are a Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) Student, enter your FCPS Student ID, Password and select the Log In button to access the Applicant Portal.
If you are not an FCPS Student, select the appropriate check box below and follow the instructions to access the Applicant Portal.

Check here if this is your first time logging in and you do not have a user name. (This is for all applicants who are not FCPS students.)

User Name:

Password:

[Forgot Password?](#) [Forgot User Name?](#)

Final Screen of Application

Parent/Guardian:

Please select one of the following options regarding the sharing of information about the applicant by your child's school or school division with TJ Admissions staff.

I consent to my child's school or school division sharing information about whether my child is or is not a Student with Disability, Multilingual learner (i.e., a student developing English proficiency), or Economically Disadvantaged student (including Free or Reduced Meals status) for use by the TJ Admissions staff during the admissions process.

I do not consent to my child's school or school division sharing information about my child's status as a Student with Disability, Multilingual learner (i.e., a student developing English proficiency), or Economically Disadvantaged student (including Free or Reduced Meals status) with TJ Admissions staff. Furthermore, if any of these experience factors apply to my child, I agree to initiate documentation of my child's status by submitting the additional relevant forms available in this portal directly to TJAdmissions@fcps.edu in lieu of TJ Admissions staff receiving the information directly from my child's school or school division.

Please select the Parent/Guardian Electronic Signature Checkbox beside the legal affidavit statement signifying that you are ready to electronically sign the Application.

I, the parent of the above student, confirm that I have read and understand my child's acknowledgement and agreement (including possible consequences for non-compliance), as set forth above. I agree that the responses and information provided in this application are accurate. I also agree to hold in confidence any information which I receive about the Tests (as defined above).

* I hereby approve the Application for admission of my child for the Class of 2030 at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. I further certify that my child resides with me and that I currently reside full-time in a TJHSST participating school division.



Application Timeline

Application opens:	Monday, October 20 at 4:00 pm
New applications must be started by:	Wednesday, November 12 by 4:00 pm
Applications must be submitted by:	Friday, November 14 at 4:00 pm

Administration of Writing Components

- Exhibit Portrait of a Graduate attributes and STEM interest in the Student Portrait Sheet
- Display problem-solving skills and STEM aptitude by responding to a math or science problem-solving essay

Student Portrait Sheet and Essay	Saturday, January 24
Student Portrait Sheet and Essay (Accommodations and Alternate)	Wednesday, February 4

Portrait of a Graduate and 21st Century Skills

- Collaborator
- Communicator
- Creative and Critical Thinker
- Ethical and Global Citizen
- Goal-Directed and Resilient

Holistic Review Elements

- GPA
- Student Portrait Sheet
- Problem Solving Essay
- Experience Factors
 - Economically Disadvantaged
 - English Language Learner
 - Special Education

Seat Allocation Process

- Each public school within Fairfax County and each cooperating school division will be presumptively allocated a number of seats equal to 1.5% of that school's 8th grade student population ("Allocated Seats"),. The remainder of seats will not be allocated to any specific public school ("Unallocated Seats"). In the event a school has fewer eligible applicants than its number of Allocated Seats, the difference will be treated as Unallocated Seats.

FCPS Regulation 3355.16

Seat Allocation Process

- **Allocated Seats**
 - Applicants attending public school will be first evaluated against other applicants from the same school, and students with the strongest evaluated applications from that school will be offered admission.
- **Unallocated Seats**
 - All remaining public-school applicants and applicants who do not attend public school in Fairfax County or in a cooperating division will be considered for the Unallocated Seats, which will be offered to the highest evaluated applicants in that group.
 - FCPS Regulation 3355.16

- Oct 20 Applications Open at 4:00 pm
- Nov 12 Applications must be started by 4:00 pm
- Nov 14 Applications must be submitted by 4:00 pm
- Dec 10 Notifications Sent to Ineligible Students
- Jan 24 Essay and Student Portrait Sheet Administration
- Feb 4 Essay and Student Portrait Sheet Administration
(Accommodations & Alternate – ONLY)
- Mar 3 Review Process Preparation Begins
- Apr 30 Final Decision Release (No Later Than)

** Dates are subject to change

All correspondence to applicants and parents is sent via the Applicant/Parent portal email system.

Answers to FAQs

- Residency in one of the five participating jurisdictions is the first requirement to apply.
- The applicant must begin the application process.
- The Problem-Solving Essay and Student Portrait Sheet are not a part of the application. They are administered in a proctored environment on an assigned date in January or February.
- Please call or email the Admissions Office for answers to any questions you may have.
- Contact info on next slide.

Additional Questions?



TJAdmissions@fcps.edu

571-423-3770