It's Academic at a Glance

What they do

TJ’s Academic Team ("It's Academic") participates in regional and national competitions in which high school students provide rapid-fire answers to questions on a wide range of topics. Locally, you can see our team in action as it participates in the Channel 4 televised academic quiz competition for high school students in the DC metropolitan area.

Awards/achievements

In 2008 regular-season tournaments, It’s Academic won the Maryland Fall Classic, the Blake High School Invitational, the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Scholastic Bowl Regional, the VHSL Scholastic Bowl State Championship, the Ben Cooper Memorial Fall Invitational, and the Collegiate High School / VCU Academic. We were the highest scorer in the Knowledge Master Spring Open for the 8th time in 11 years, placing first of 703 schools. Our proudest achievement was winning the National Academic Quiz Tournaments High School National Championship for the 4th time in 6 years, an NAQT record.

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor  Carolyn Gecan  Carolyn.Gecan@fcps.edu
Parent liaison     Sallie Casto  Sallie.H.Casto@usdoj.gov
President         Nishanth Parameswaran Nishanth9028@yahoo.com
Co-Captain        Naren Tallapragada cineverite@gmail.com
Co-Captain        Josh Hahm  joshuahahm@gmail.com

For more information, visit our websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
It's Academic - tjhsst.edu/itsacademic
Botball (Robotics) at a Glance

What they do

Botball is all about robots—building them from Legos and other materials, attaching sensors and motors, programming them in C, and testing, testing, testing. Each year in May, we compete against nearly 50 other schools in the Washington DC area. We have about seven weeks to build robots to accomplish one or more designated tasks. Before the competition season, the club focuses on robot building techniques, programming techniques, and in-house competitions.

Awards/achievements

Two TJ teams competed in the 2008 Greater DC Regional Botball tournament - the Senior Team and the Freshman Team. Teams were tasked with rescuing Botguy, collecting the crew and plants, and ejecting the satellites into space before a solar flare hit the space station and disabled all communication systems. The Freshman team performed exceptionally well and placed 5th out of the 48 teams. The Senior team won a Judges' Choice award for quick hands: one of their 'bots drove off of the game board... twice. Luckily, Eric caught the 'bot both times and saved it from a nasty fall onto the hardwood floor.

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor       Marion Billington       Marion.Billington@fcps.edu
Co-President          Eric Kolker             E.Kolker@gmail.com
Co-President          Mac Stevens             nerdydrummer@gmail.com

For more information, visit our websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Botball - tjhsst.edu/botball/
Certamen at a Glance

What they do

TJ’s Latin team is called Certamen, which is Latin for "competition." The team participates in quiz bowl style competitions with questions on such classics-themed topics as Latin grammar and vocabulary, Latin-based etymology, Roman history and culture, and classical mythology. In addition, we sponsored a Certamen with 39 participating schools.

Awards/achievements

TJ teams placed in the top 5 at every tournament, winning team trophies and individual medals. These included: VJCL Kick-Off Certamen, Ad Fontes Certamen, Riverbend Certamen, Flint Hill Certamen, Classical Cottage Certamen, and VJCL State Finals. The Latin III team won the State Championship at the State Finals.

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor  Christine Conklin  Christine.Conklin@fcps.edu
Faculty Sponsor  Patty Lister  Patricia.Lister@fcps.edu
Parent liaison  Carrie Kilgore  JCKVienna@aol.com
Parent liaison  Brindala Mallappa  Brindala.mallappa@ionidea.com
Co-Captain  Chris Kilgore  untzer@aol.com
Co-Captain  Amith Ananthram  amith.ananthram@gmail.com

For more information, visit our websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Certamen - tjhsst.edu/latin
Chess Team at a Glance

What they do

TJ’s Chess team plays competitively, traveling to games around the area and the country.

Awards/achievements

Last year, the TJ Chess team won many accolades. It placed second at the National Tournament. It won the Virginia state championship for the 10th year in a row. The TJ Chess Team also won the Metro Area Chess League Championship with a perfect record, and was named the U.S. Amateur Team East Top High School team.

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor  Philip Ero  Philip.Ero@fcps.edu
Parent coaches  Rick and Linda Loffredo  lindaloffredo@cox.net
Parent coaches  Roger and Irene Lu  luyiheng@yahoo.com
Student Captain  Eddie Lu  tjchessteam@gmail.com
Student Captain  Aryan Khojandi  tjchessteam@gmail.com

For more information, visit our websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Chess Team - tjhsst.edu/chess
Computer Team at a Glance

What they do

The Computer Team’s objective is to practice and enhance problem-solving skills involving programming. We compete in several contests, including USACO, Topcoder, ACSL, and ACM on the national/international level.

Awards/achievements

Last year, TJ Computer Team members did very well in the January, February, March, and April USACO (USA Computing Olympiad) contests. The Frosh team placed second nationally in the American Computer Science League All-Star Competition for Junior Teams. And, two members of the Senior Team were among the four students selected to represent the United States at the International Olympiad in Informatics, and earned silver medals.

Contact Information

Faculty sponsor, senior       Shane Torbert       Shane.Torbert@fcps.edu
Faculty sponsor, frosh        Steve Rose         Stephen.Rose@fcps.edu
Parent liaison                John Repetski      jrepetski@cox.net
Captain                       Stephen Drodge     sjjdrodge@verizon.net
Co-captain                    Brian Hamrick      brian.c.hamrick@gmail.com
Co-captain                    Andrew Rodriguez   Nitromaster101@gmail.com

For more information, visit our websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Senior Computer Team - tjhsst.edu/sct
Lincoln-Douglas Debate at a Glance

What they do

Students argue different sides of philosophical positions with respect to real-world issues. Topics change every other month. Participants develop skills in stating logical arguments, cross-examining opponents, and refuting opponents’ arguments, all within tight time constraints.

Awards/achievements

Last year, TJ’s LD debate team consistently placed in the Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Novice divisions at Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League (WACFL) tournaments. Twenty-five TJ LD debaters qualified for the Metrofinals tournament – the most in TJ history and a number virtually unmatched in the Washington area. At Metrofinals, many individuals placed and the LD team won first place in the Sweepstakes Competition. Three debaters qualified for NCFL Grand Nationals, and two placed in the top 5. The LD team also participated in tournaments at Princeton, Harvard, and GMU.

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor  Sherwood Williams  Sherwood.Williams1@fcps.edu
Parent liaison     Eugene Hsiang     eugeney@cox.net
Co-Captain        Lily Hsiang       frostedlilies@gmail.com
Co-Captain        Alex Kim          Ouassous@gmail.com

For more information, visit our websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Debate - tjhsst.edu/debate
Policy Debate at a Glance

What they do

Two-person teams argue both sides of a controversial proposition for an entire season. Participants develop skills in researching topics in depth, using research to support arguments for and against positions, all within tight time constraints.

Awards/achievements

Last year, dozens of TJ students competed at local Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League (WACFL) tournaments, and routinely placed in both the JV and Varsity divisions. Seventeen policy debaters qualified for the WACFL Metrofinals tournament. At Metrofinals, TJ teams placed sixth in JV and third in Varsity, and the Varsity teams overall placed third, in TJ’s first-ever sweepstakes award. Individuals also received speaker awards at the JV and Varsity level, and the Eleanor Wright Spirit of Competition Award. At the national level, one TJ Varsity team broke into the quarterfinals round with a 4-3 record, and also qualified for Nationals.

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor   Tom Sleete   Thomas.sleete@fcps.edu
Co-Captain       Kathy Hutchinson  mysticalskeetcher@gmail.com
Co-Captain       Lisa Pang   lisa_pang6060@yahoo.com

For more information, visit our websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Policy Debate - tjhsst.edu/policy/wb/main
Public Forum Debate at a Glance

What they do

Two-person teams debate different topics monthly in a crossfire question and answer style. Participants develop skills in stating logical arguments, cross-examining opponents, and refuting their opponents’ arguments, all within tight time constraints.

Awards/achievements

On the local circuit last year, eleven Policy Forum team debaters qualified for WACFL Metrofinals - three varsity and eight JV. At Metrofinals, the cocaptains qualified for the NCFL Grand National Tournament, were quarterfinalists, and each received the Eleanor E. Wright Spirit of Competition Award.

On the national circuit, two Policy Forum debaters were quarterfinalists at the Wake Forest Earlybird, semifinalists at the Villiger Tournament, and the first TJ debaters to fully qualify for the prestigious National Tournament of Champions (TOC).

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor  Michael Miller  Michael.Miller2@fcps.edu
Team liaison     Pankaj Malik  pmalik@pol.net
Captain          Sumit Malik  tjpfdebate@gmail.com

For more information, visit our website

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Student Congress Debate at a Glance

What they do

Student Congress is a new form of debate that models the procedures of the United States Congress. Debaters assemble in a group of about twenty to thirty people. A list of issues, which have been chosen before the session, is used to organize the topics to be discussed. These issues deal with recent and controversial matters that affect the United States, both domestic and international. In the assembly, students discuss each issue, and then vote on whether or not a bill should be passed. Besides growing more knowledgeable about current affairs, debaters draw on other skills such as public speaking and formulating arguments quickly.

Awards/achievements

This is a new team at TJ. Join us in building a great team!

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor    Sherwood Williams   Sherwood.Williams1@fcps.edu
Captain            Anirudh Mohan     Anirudh.c.mohan@gmail.com
Vice-captain       Nikhil Prakash    nikhil94@gmail.com

For more information, visit our website

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Future Problem Solvers at a Glance

What they do

Four-student teams research topics in advance, to prepare for the qualifying round, the Virginia state bowl and the International Bowl. In timed competitions, teams read about a hypothetical situation, then write a booklet that identifies issues, describes possible solutions, and spells out an action plan. Future Problem Solving stimulates critical and creative thinking skills and encourages students to develop a vision for the future.

Awards/achievements

Last year, over 25 TJ students qualified for the Virginia FPS State Bowl, including five teams in the Senior Division and one team and one individual in the Middle Division. TJ teams swept at the State Bowl, and its 1st and 2nd place teams qualified for the International Bowl. In the skit competition, TJ teams placed first and second. One student won the annual $1000 VA FPS Scholarship, while Mr. Lampazzi, TJ’s former long-time coach, won the Movers and Shakers Award.

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor            Milde Waterfall               Milde.Waterfall@fcps.edu
President                  Lily Hsiang                 frostedlilies@gmail.com
Vice President            Ellen Huang                 silvermists@gmail.com
Parent liaison             Eugene Hsiang              eugeney@cox.net
Parent liaison             Xuejing Feng              suncf@hotmail.com

For more information, visit our websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
FPS - tjhsst.edu/fps
Math Team at a Glance

What they do

TJ’s Math Team is one of the most successful in the nation. Our members participate in many events throughout the year. At meetings, we give lectures, hold practices, and participate in regional and national math contests. We also travel to well-known math competitions. And, we host the Intermediate Math Open, a competition for middle school students.

Awards/achievements

At Princeton University Math Competition, the TJ-A team won 2nd overall and had the highest score on the team round. Individuals swept 1st place in every division, and two other members tied for 6th place in the Algebra division. At the Duke Math Meet, the TJ-A team placed 2nd and TJ-B team placed 5th, while an individual took 2nd place. Due to snow, we took the Harvard-MIT Math Tournament contest at TJ. Consequently, we were not allowed to compete in the Guts Round and were ineligible for the 400 points from that round. Still, two members won 1st place and 2nd place individually.

TJ won first place on Individual Mandelbrot competition and 5th place in the cumulative team round. In Purple Comet, we won 1st and 2nd. At ARML Local, we won 1st place team and our members tied for 1st place individually. In Virginia Math League, TJ won 1st place as a team. TJ also had the highest team score in the nation on the American Mathematics Competition 12, and six TJ students qualified for USAMO (USA Mathematics Olympiad).

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor Pat Gabriel Pat.Gabriel@fcps.edu
Faculty Sponsor Jen Allard Jennifer.Allard@fcps.edu
Faculty Sponsor Anna Frome Anna.Frome@fcps.edu
Captain Brian Hamrick Brian.c.hamrick@gmail.com
Co-Captain Arvind Thiagarajan arvindthiagarajan@gmail.com
Co-Captain Akshar Wunnava wak2010@gmail.com

For more information, visit our websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Varsity Math Team - tjhsst.edu/vmt
Model UN at a Glance

What they do

Model United Nations teaches civics, communications, globalization, and multilateral diplomacy. Students participate in a simulated session of an intergovernmental organization, research a country, take on roles as diplomats, investigate international issues, debate, deliberate, consult, and develop solutions to world problems.

Awards/achievements

TJMUN won all local conferences in which it participated, including those at George Mason, C.D. Hylton, Chantilly, and Fairfax high schools. TJMUN also won the Virginia Model United Nations Conference hosted by the UVA, and did well at the competitive Ivy League Model UN Conference at the University of Pennsylvania. Many regular members took home top individual awards at each of these conferences.

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor: John Struck (John.Struck@fcps.edu)
Faculty Sponsor: Alexandra Pou (Alexandra.Pou@fcps.edu)
AB parent liaison: Shalini Bhatia (shalinib@cox.net)
Secretary-General: Naren Tallapragada (cineverite@gmail.com)
Undersecretary-General: Curtis Mills (Cmills1@gmail.com)
AB student liaison: Sid Bhatia (bhatia.siddhant@gmail.com)

For more information, visit our websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Model UN - tjhsst.edu/mun
Physics Team at a Glance

What they do

TJ’s Physics Team meets during 8th period Fridays and after school on Tuesdays, to prepare students for the USA Physics Olympiad (USAPHO) qualifying exams.

Awards/achievements

On the USAPHO Exams last year, nineteen TJ students scored among the top 450 students in the nation on the preliminary round and advanced to quarterfinals. With 4% of quarterfinalists, TJ had more students qualify than any other school. Out of the 19 quarterfinalists, 15 TJ students qualified for the semifinal round, and comprised over 9% of the 158 semifinalists in the United States. Three of these 15 students qualified for the 24-member US Physics Team. TJ also placed first in division 1 for our region in the AAPT Physics Bowl, winning $125.00 in gift certificates.

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor        John Dell        John.Dell@fcps.edu
Captain/Co-captain    Arvind Thiagarajan arvindthiagarajan@gmail.com
Captain/Co-captain    Daniel Li         daniel.li.92@gmail.com
Captain/Co-captain    Stephen Drodge    tehminkeh@gmail.com

For more information, visit our websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Physics - tjhsst.edu/physics
Biology Olympiad at a Glance

What they do

The Biology Olympiad Team meets weekly to prepare students for the U.S. Biology Olympiad qualifying exams.

Awards/achievements

Last year, over 100 TJ students took the open exam for the USA Biology Olympiad, and TJ had 30 of the 500 students in the United States who qualified to take the semifinal exam. The team also competed in the Biology Merit Exam at Clemson University, in the second and third divisions. Our teams placed first in both divisions, and TJ students swept most of the individual awards.

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor    Ithalda Uston    P.Uston@fcps.edu
Co-captain         Jessica Liu      jessicafliu@gmail.com
Co-captain         Viola Li         viola_h_li@yahoo.com

For more information, visit our websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Biology Olympiad - tjhsst.edu/bioolympiad/
Chemistry Olympiad at a Glance

What they do

The Chemistry Olympiad Team meets weekly to prepare students for the U.S. Chemistry Olympiad qualifying exams.

Awards/achievements

National Chemistry Olympiad rules only allow each high school to nominate two students for the National exam. To select the two nominees for TJHSST, training opportunities and examinations were provided throughout the school year to the Chemistry Olympiad team. The required Chemistry Olympiad Local Exam was given to four Semi-Finalists, the maximum permitted last year. Based on all results, interests, and participation, two TJ nominees were selected to take the National Exam, which includes multiple choice problems, free-response problems, and a lab practical in which they must design and complete several experiments to solve lab-based problems.

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor Hadan Kauffman Hadan.Kauffman@fcps.edu

For more information, visit our websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Japan Bowl at a Glance

What they do

Japan Bowl is a quiz-bowl style competition (modeled after It's Academic) sponsored each spring by the Japan-America Society. It tests the achievements of high school students throughout the USA who are studying the Japanese language, including their knowledge of traditional and modern Japan, culture, history, geography and current events. TJ has participated in Japan Bowl since it started at George Mason University campus in 1993. Three-student teams compete at three different levels.

Awards/achievements

Last year, TJ sent one team for each of the three levels of competition to Japan Bowl, which had 65 teams and 186 participating students. TJ’s Level 2 (beginner) team placed 11th. TJ’s Level 3 (intermediate) team placed 5th. And, TJ’s Level 4 (advanced) team placed 6th.

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor Koji Otani Koji.Otani@fcps.edu

For more information, visit our website

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Ocean Bowl at a Glance

What they do

TJ’s Ocean Bowl team participates in regional and national tournaments that test knowledge about the scientific disciplines used to study oceans (physics, chemistry, geology, atmospheric science and biology) and about the impact of oceans on economies, history, and culture. To prepare for competitions, students meet in 8th period study sessions, after school, and on weekends. They choose areas of interest, research topics, and prepare lectures and handouts for one another.

Awards/achievements

At the regional Ocean Bowl competition, the TJ-A team placed first, allowing them to advance to the national competition in Alaska. The TJ-B team placed second in the regional competition (losing only to TJ’s A team).

In April 2008, the TJ A team flew to Anchorage and took the Alaskan Railroad through the alpine tundra to the coastal town of Seward. They caught a catamaran ride off the Gulf of Alaska on Resurrection Bay - a glacial fjord - to see Alaskan wildlife and dined at the Alaskan Sea Life Center.

The TJ team sailed smoothly into the competition making it into the double elimination rounds. TJ’s coach won an opportunity to return to Alaska this summer to study the effect of climate change on estuaries with the University of Alaska at their field station on the remote Kenai Peninsula. After the competition ended, they visited the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center.

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor          Lisa Wu          Lisa.Wu@fcps.edu
Captain                 Alex Kim          alexmkim@cox.net

For more information, visit our websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Ocean Bowl - tjhsst.edu/oceanbowl/
Science Bowl at a Glance

What they do

Sponsored by the US Department of Energy, Science Bowl is a quiz-bowl style competition that tests students’ knowledge of biology, chemistry, physics, earth science, astronomy, and math. Each school can send one team of 5 students.

Awards/achievements

In 2008, the TJ Science Bowl team won the Virginia Regional Science Bowl in February and won $750 for TJ. At the National Science Bowl, TJ placed 3rd in the nation out of 67 Regional champion teams and earned an additional $1000 for TJ. The team also won a science trip to the Jefferson Labs in Newport News, which they donated to the 4th place team from Colorado. In addition, the TJ team earned 1st prize in their division for the Interactive Science Discovery contest, by creating a cloud in a bottle, and earned another $500 for TJ.

Historically, TJ has won almost every Virginia regional science bowl it has entered over the years. In addition, TJ placed first at four consecutive Science Bowls, from 2002 to 2005.

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor Sharon Webb Sharon.Webb@fcps.edu

For more information, visit these websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
National Science Bowl - www.scied.science.doe.gov/nsb
Odyssey of the Mind at a Glance

What they do

This problem solving competition offers teams a choice of five problems, ranging from designing and building devices to writing and performing skits. TJ’s OM teams host a local invitational, and compete at local, regional and world OM competitions.

Awards/achievements

Last year, TJ teams placed first in all 5 problem categories at the Regional level. At the State competition, seniors placed second in both the “Classics . . . The Wonderful Muses” problem and the “Eccentrics” problem. Juniors placed in the “Dino Stories” problem. Freshmen placed second in the “Tee Structure” problem. Seniors placed first in the “Odyssey Road Rally” problem. The “Odyssey Road Rally” team also received the Ranatra Fusca Award for exceptional creativity. All four teams advanced to World Finals, representing TJ in 5 problem categories. Three TJ seniors not only won first place in the vehicle problem at the State Competition, but also won the coveted Runatra Fusca Award for being highly creative with their solution.

Contact Information

President                Jeanette Miranda         tjodyssey@gmail.com
Parent contact           Nupur Kapoor              k apoors@msn.com

For more information, visit our websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
Odyssey of the Mind -tjhsst.edu/ootm
Underwater Robot Team at a Glance

What they do

This inter-lab collaborative project includes students from TJ oceanography lab, prototyping lab and energy systems lab. Students designed and built a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) for the Underwater ROV Competition.

Awards/achievements

Last year, the ROV was designed to complete underwater missions related to exploring hydrothermal vents in the deep sea. Mission tasks were specified in a competition organized and sponsored by Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center.

After a mid-Atlantic regional competition in April 2008, the team qualified to compete at the International Underwater ROV Competition in June at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, in San Diego, California. TJ placed 8th in this international competition.

Contact Information

Faculty Sponsor  Lisa Wu  Lisa.Wu@fcps.edu
Faculty Sponsor  Clint Behling  Clinton.Behling@fcps.edu
Faculty Sponsor  Adam Kemp  Adam.Kemp@fcps.edu

For more information, visit these websites

Academic Boosters - tjhsst.edu/aboosters
MATE Center - www.marinetech.org