



Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

Alexandria, VA

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Quick Facts

- Public, selective high school founded in 1985 “to improve education in science, math, and technology”
- 1800 students grades 9-12
- Deep partnership between local businesses and schools
- Ranked #1 American High School by US News two years in a row

Highlights

- Integrated Biology, English, Technology Program (IBET) for 9th graders
 - 6 teams of 70-80 kids
 - Each team has 3 teachers and 1 counselor
 - Interdisciplinary focus
 - Block schedule
 - Student-directed projects
 - Community partnerships

Highlights, cont'd

- Specialized science & technology research labs
 - Astronomy
 - Automation and robotics
 - Biotechnology
 - Oceanography
 - “Jefferson Partnership Fund” (school/business partnership) helps fund and sustain labs

Highlights, cont'd

- Mentorship program
 - Application process
 - Senior year
 - 180 hours
 - Research, project development in labs and firms throughout D.C. area

Highlights, cont'd

- Senior requirements
 - Must do mentorship program, or
 - Must complete a “technology laboratory project” in one of the specialized research labs

WHS Take-Aways

- “Students learn best in a community where academic disciplines are integrated”
- “Research stems from a combination of fundamental knowledge, individual creativity and curiosity”
- “Effective communication is often the only difference between a good idea and a successful initiative”
- Cutting-edge technology supported by community partnerships
- Fine arts requirement!
- School-adult world connection