



## THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

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WEST ELIZABETH - JEFFERSON HILLS - PLEASANT HILLS

PETE MURPHY  
*Principal*

PAUL WARE  
*Assistant Principal*

ADAM KNARESBOROUGH  
*Assistant Principal*

Dear Students, Parents, and/or Guardians,

August 20, 2020

I hope this message finds everyone safe, healthy and looking forward to the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The uncertainty of COVID 19 has left us changing course and plans on a daily basis with the release of new information regarding mitigation protocols, extra curricular activities, and the health and safety of our students and staff. To say the least, this summer has been challenging! The WJHSD has worked tirelessly to create choices for students that will allow all of them to learn and grow how they feel most comfortable. As we move closer to the start of the school year, communication will be imperative. Please keep an eye on your email for additional important information to be sent out over the next week.

In recent weeks, Mr. Ware, Mr. Knaresborough, and I have been placing the final touches on our return to school plans. Once up and running, Canvas, our new learning management system, will directly connect students working remotely at home to live instruction and activities at TJHS through our Hybrid and Canvas learning models. The high school staff has worked exceptionally hard to learn the new system to ensure all students have a positive learning experience through this unprecedented time in education. Over the next day, students will receive email invitations from their teachers to participate in Google Meetings scheduled for Monday, August 24th and Tuesday the 25th. On August 24, 2020, students will have their odd day schedule (periods 1, 3, 5, and 7) meetings, and the 25th will be their even day schedule meetings. These online meetings will give students the opportunity to meet their teacher and learn about the course. I strongly encourage all students to attend these live meetings on their district provided Chromebook. I have attached a copy of the current bell schedule to this letter so all are aware of the class times for the 2020-2021 school year.

As you are also aware, this year, TJHS has provided all students a choice of three learning opportunities to start the school year. We are working to make sure we have all students assigned to the correct platform requested through our parent survey. In an effort to get the school year off and running successfully, I have scheduled live grade level meetings to discuss the return to TJHS 2.0. I will also email Zoom links to all parents and students early next week. The dates and times are as follows:

**-Thursday August 27, 2020 1:00 PM Class of 2021      -Thursday August 27, 2020 2:30 PM Class of 2022**

**-Friday August 28, 2020 1:00 PM Class of 2023                      -Friday August 28, 2020 2:30 PM Class of**

**2024**

In closing, in order for all of our learning models to work, it is imperative that parents, students, teachers, and staff work together, and I also ask for patience. What we are asking teachers to do for over 950 students has not been done before at TJ or in public education. There may be growing pains along the way, but I have no doubt our teachers and staff will meet the challenge. We are looking forward to the amazing opportunity to bring 21st century learning to all students at Thomas Jefferson High School!

Go Jaguars!

Sincerely,

*Pete Murphy*

Pete Murphy