Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

ACADEMIC BOOSTERS AWARDS RECEPTION

Thursday, June 1st, 2017
6:00 ~ 8:00 p.m.
TJ Academic Boosters actively supports our outstanding academic teams in their various pursuits. Some 20 academic teams compete in local, state, national, and sometimes even international events. Because financial resources are not available from Fairfax County Public Schools, Academic Boosters asks families to join the organization by contributing tax-deductible donations at various levels. This allows Academic Boosters to cover teacher travel expenses and help with student registration fees when possible. Even with this support, academic team members pay for their own travel, room, meals, and other related expenses.


Academic Boosters gathers information about team accomplishments for the PTSA newsletter, recognizes family memberships, promotes Academic Teams at orientations and open houses, and organizes a year-end Team Recognition Ceremony.

Our TJ Academic Teams’ achievements have always been a source of pride for the entire TJHSST community and are a cornerstone of our national reputation for academic excellence. Everyone is welcome (and encouraged!) to join TJ Academic Boosters by making a donation, either by check or online through Paypal. Funding comes primarily from family memberships; it is supplemented with food and merchandise sales. 100% of the money raised is used to support TJ’s academic teams. Recommended donation levels start at $50 per year. THANK YOU to all of our wonderful Teacher Sponsors, for without them, we would not have Academic Teams. THANK YOU to all who have supported TJ Academic Boosters this school year!

** We look forward to seeing you all again next year **

REMEMBER, it’s never too early to join TJ Academic Boosters for the upcoming school year! Memberships purchased in May/June 2017 are good for the 2017-2018 school year.

VISIT: http://academics.tjhsst.edu/aboosters
LIKE or FOLLOW: https://www.facebook.com/TJ Academic Boosters
Aerospace Initiative

Faculty Sponsor:
Mr. Doug Cullen

2016-2017 Student Officers:
President: Diana Zavela
Vice President: Jasper Barnett
Treasurer: Luca Frix
Secretary/Publicist: Mei Baek
Quartermaster: Joyce Liu

National Finalist TARC Team:
Luca Frix, Uzma Rentia, Kavin Ilanchezhian, Faaiz Memon, and Kevin Tang

HS Lander:
Clara Kim, Mei Baek, Neha Chinthapatla, Renee Li, Rachel Li, and Arpitha Shenoy

Target Altitude:
Avni Singh, Wayez Ahmed, Diana Zavela, Maguire Papay, Tommy Park, Joshua Gong, Henry Nester, and Jonathan Daniel

This year, TJHSST Aerospace Initiative was incredibly successful from both an achievement and educational point of view. At the end of last year, Aerospace Initiative formed as a result of the merging of the two aerospace clubs, TJ Rocketry and TJ Excelsior Aerospace, increasing the number of students involved to over 100. TJ Aerospace Initiative is a tightly knit club that fosters students with varying levels of experience, and offers a good learning opportunity for those with less, and leadership opportunities for highly committed members with more.

This year, TJ Aerospace competed in Team America Rocketry Challenge, also known as TARC, the nation’s largest rocketry competition, where the objective was to hit a target altitude of 775 feet, have a part of the rocket touch the ground between 41-43 seconds,
While carrying an egg, among other specifications. We increased our number of TARC teams from 6 to 8, and one of those 8 was a national finalist. Another competition we competed in was Battle of the Rockets, with four teams competing in different events. We had 2 Target Altitude Teams, 1 High School Planetary Lander team, and 1 Advanced Planetary Lander team, and brought home the national champion title for two of those events: target altitude and high school planetary lander.

The process of preparing for these challenging competitions is an engineering process, from designing the rockets using a simulation program, to the construction, and the actual practice flights. This year, we flew over 80 flights across 12 teams, including 7 high power certification flights, which allowed those people in the club to earn their NAR Level 1 High Power Certification, allowing them to legally fly high power rockets. We have also increased the club’s public outreach, by participating in events like Techstravaganza, where we hosted 3 booths: stomp rockets, paper airplanes, and rocketry and electronics, where we used interactive activities to teach the basics of aerodynamics and forces, as well as expose younger students to the use of advanced rockets and electronics and flight computers.

In preparation for next year, we plan on continuing our expansion of aerospace opportunities for TJ students through the continued participation in TARC and Battle of the Rockets, as well as SLI (NASA competition), High Power Rocketry, and more. We are anticipating a high demand of students who are interested in participating, as we are aware that incoming students may have existing aerospace passions (i.e., Longfellow, a feeder school into TJ had 7 TARC teams). We faced some challenges this year through management and fundraising for the many members of our club as rocketry supplies tend to be more expensive. We continue to overcome these challenges through establishment of strong leaders and positions in the club, as well as grants from sponsors and support from TJ Academic Boosters, without which, TJ Aerospace would not be as successful. Overall, TJ Aerospace is very grateful to have had a very successful season and we look forward to the next year and welcoming incoming students.

Special thanks to team sponsor, Mr. Doug Cullen!
Biology Olympiad

Co-captains: Neeraj Prasad, Ashwin Srinivasan
Teaching Coordinators: Anish Karpurapu, Kavya Kopparapu
Webmaster: Lydia You
Treasurer: Min Kang

USA Biology Olympiad (USABO) Competition, sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Education (CEE):

Among the TJ students who competed in the USABO Open Exam in February, the following 26 students qualified as semifinalists: Alexander Ahn, Christopher Bi, Sabrina Cai, Akhil Goel, Aaron Gu, Justin Han, Anthony Kang, Anish Karpurapu, Irene Kim, Kavya Kopparapu, Eugene Lee, Derrick Liang, Grace Lu, Jainam Modh, Richard Pan, Adele Peng, Neeraj Prasad, Akhil Rekulapelli, Aditya Sarkar, Ashwin Srinivasan, Vandana Subramanian, Eric Sun, Wenbo Wu, Benjamin Xu, Lydia You and Julia Zhou.

Neeraj Prasad and Wenbo Wu qualified for the 2017 USABO National Finals. Along with Anthony Kang, these students placed within the top 50 of the 5,489 students who participated. Neeraj Prasad, with a score of 150, was a mere 6.76 points shy of first place!

Neeraj Prasad and Wenbo Wu, along with Anthony Kang, achieved the CEE “Recognition of Academic Excellence” for scoring in the top 50 on the 2017 USABO Semifinal.

Neeraj Prasad and Wenbo Wu will be two of the 20 Finalists competing at Marymount University, from May 28 to June 11. The top four students at Nationals will advance to compete in the International Biology Olympiad in Coventry, UK, from July 23 to 30.
The TJ Botball Robotics Team competed in the Greater DC / Virginia Botball Tournament (www.botball.org) on Saturday, April 3.

The TJ Botball team won 2 and lost 2 in the Double Elimination round and won its match in the Alliance Cohort round. The team was awarded a Judge’s Choice certificate for “Best Subsystem” for its mechanical arm.

The team members are: Nipun Mallipeddi (Captain), Nikhil Daga (Captain), Arvind Srinivasan, Chris Jiang, Rohan Valluri, Mark Putman, Thomas Lai (Webmaster), Samer Kadih, Rishi Shyamala, Farris Ahmad, Wayez Ahmed, Vishnu Murthy, Jaswant Kasinedi, Jeremy Krill, Rahil Shah, Ishaan Dwivedi, Sharath Byakod, Rushil Joshi, Anubhav Thapaliya, Josh Rutzick, and Bhanu Kumpati.

Each team has two robots equipped with a CPU and motors, cameras, and sensors. The game board is different each year. This year, the robots scored points by collecting, moving, and sorting colored poms which were placed on the surface of the board and on a raised platform. Winning robots were able to navigate precisely and consistently in tight spaces. Final scores are determined by points awarded from all five parts of the competition:

- project documentation
- oral presentation about the teams’ robots and strategy
- average score in the seeding rounds
- final position in the double elimination tournament
- their cohort’s overall score.
This year, TJ Latin attended the 63rd Annual National Junior Classical League (NJCL) Convention, hosted by Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. As always, TJ performed very well in graphic arts, creative arts, academic tests, and other competitions. Two TJ Certamen members, Minyoung Hwang and John Kim, played on the Virginia Intermediate Certamen team and won 1st for the state.

The Virginia Junior Classical League (VJCL) Convention, hosted in Richmond, was also a great success for TJ. The TJ delegation claimed 1st place for Spirit, Scrapbooking, and Publication! TJ Latin members had strong showings in all categories, earning many of the top 10 places for various tests and projects.

Sophomore Olympia Hatzilambrou won Best in Show for Latin Oratory and performed excellently for the entire Virginia delegation! Junior Minyoung Hwang earned the Bob Parks Award for achieving the highest overall score on the mythology test and the Hughlings H. Himwich Award for overall academics.

This year’s Certamen season was extraordinarily successful. TJ Latin attended the Kickoff, Basis DC, Classical Cottage, Flint Hill, UVA, Harvard, and State Finals Certamina. In addition, TJ once again hosted the Thomas Jefferson Certamen for teams throughout Virginia and DC. Thanks to the efforts of the entire TJ Latin club, the Certamen was successful.

Here are highlights from our Certamen Season:

- The Latin I team, consisting of Joseph Amsbary, Ayush Viswanathan, and Emily Ye had a dominating career, winning 1st place at Classical Cottage, UVA, and Flint Hill. Their success led them to play on Level 1 Advanced instead of on Level 1 for the second half of the season.

- The Latin II A team, David Chen, Justin Han, Thomas Porter, and Jungmin Shin placed 1st at State Finals, a victorious end to a successful year! The II B team, Ray Bai, Annabel Li, Cathy Liang, Rayna Shoenberger, JP Wilusz, and Andrew Yoon placed 4th at the same Certamen.

- The Latin III A team, with Lexa Hummel, Gwendolyn Jacobson, Jack McEver, and Alan Zheng placed 2nd at Flint Hill, one of the hardest Certamina of the season! The B team of Robert Crotts, Jerry Liu, and Madeline Old placed 5th.

- The Upper A team, Arjun Guidroz, Minyoung Hwang, and John Kim, placed 1st at State Finals, one of their four first places throughout the year! The Upper B
team, Natalie Chin, Claire Cofield, John Erskine, and Kevin Le placed 3rd at Flint Hill among other high standings.

- On March 25th, the Upper A and Level 1 teams attended the 8th Annual Harvard Certamen, our only national Certamen of the year, playing against teams from Massachusetts, Florida, and other states around the country. Both teams fought hard to make the semifinals, where they were defeated. Though our teams may be frequent winners in Virginia, the experience has given us motivation to work harder!

The Latin experience never comes to an end! This July, TJ Latin will attend the 64th annual NJCL Convention at Troy University in Troy, Alabama. TJ Certamen players are trying out for the Virginia state team, and we hope for all the TJ students to once again show their skill and bring glory to the Virginia Delegation.

The team thanks Ms. Conklin and Ms. Lister, our teachers, sponsors, and most encouraging supporters. Their tireless work and generosity for TJ Certamen have made possible the success we enjoy today. We would also like to recognize our Certamen Coordinators, Arjun Guidroz, Minyoung Hwang, and John Kim, for enthusiastically motivating the team to improve by leaps and bounds this year, laying the foundation for future greatness. Last and far from least, thank you to all of TJ Latin’s parents, without whose cooperation we could not have achieved all that has been accomplished.
Twenty students this year qualified to take the Local Chemistry Olympiad Exam in March. Most won Honors and High Honors on the Exam. They were:

Aaditya Singh,
Aadith Vittala,
Ethan Liu,
Wenbo Wu,
Eric Deng,
Katherine Cheng,
George Tang,
Nishanth Anand,
Kevin Le,
Mark Putnam,
Joseph Kwon,
Christopher Bi,
John Kim,
Eric Sun,
Grace Qi,
Jenny Tan,
Arvind Srinivasan,
Alex Peng,
Elise Ong,
Vandana Subramanian,
Aditya Sarkar,
Varun Mosur,
Matthew Chen,
Ishika Govil, and
Shresta Bangaru.

Congratulations to: Aaditya Singh and Ethan Liu who moved on to the National Chemistry Olympiad test in April. They received the two highest scores in the region which includes 17 school districts in Maryland and Virginia.

Special thanks to team coach, Mr. Hadan Kauffman!
Chess Team

Chess Team Chess Captains: Ben Lyons and Isuru Attanagoda

The TJ Chess Team competed in the Virginia State Chess Championship and the Virginia State Blitz Chess Championship held in Hamptons, VA. In the blitz event, the TJ Blitz Team placed second, with Isuru Attanagoda tying for first with 8.5 points.

In the main event, TJ placed first with 14 players: Alex Jian, Benjamin Lyons, Ryan Xu, Isuru Attanagoda, Camden Wiseman, Akhil Goel, Elijah Kirtley, Minwu Kim, Emerson Berlik, Rachel Nadich, Jnanadeep Dandu, Maggie Kirtley, Eric Gan, and Neal Gross. Finishing strong and carrying the team to its 19th consecutive victory were Alex Jian, Benjamin Lyons, and Ryan Xu who all tied for 2nd place with a score of 5/6.

The team also went to the National Chess High School Championship in Nashville, TN. Chess team placed 2nd in the nation, just .5 shy of the first place team, with 10 players representing TJ: Alex Jian, Isuru Attanagoda, Benjamin Lyons, Ryan Xu, Camden Wiseman, Akhil Goel, Eric Gan, Rachel Nadich, Monwu Kim, and Emerson Berlik. The team’s top scorer was Alex Jian with 5/7 points.

Special thanks to team sponsor, Mr. John Zacharias!
The TJHSST computer teams participated in the University of Virginia High School Programming Contest (UVA), the Junior Five Competition, the Virginia Commonwealth University High School Programming Contest (VCU), the Innovative Defense Technologies (IDT) Contest, the University of Maryland High School Programming Contest (UMD), the American Computer Science League, and the USA Computing Olympiad (USACO).

For the Frosh ’Puter Team this year, Arnav Bansal, Neeyanth Kopparapu, Havish Malladi, and Richard Zhan placed 8th in the UVA High School Programming Contest out of about 50 teams. Shresta Bangaru, Neal R. Bayya, Caroline Jin, George Tang, and Daniel Wisdom tied for first in the Junior Five Competition at last year’s American Computer Science League All-Star Competition. Mr. Stephen Rose is taking the team to this year’s American Computer Science League All-Star Competition on May 27, 2017.

For the Senior Computer Team, Kevin Geng, Charles Zhao, and Larry Wang are the team captains, and Justin Zhang is the Statistician. Here is the team recap this year:

VCU: Our team of Charles Zhao, Shreyan Jaiswal, Jeffery Yu, and Aaditya Singh placed 2nd out of about 30 teams.

UVA: Kevin Geng, Hanna Xu, Lawrence Wang, and Katherine Cheng placed 1st out of a pool of around 50 teams.

UMD: Justin Zhang, Wassim Omais, Srinidhi Krishnamurthy, and Daniel Wisdom placed 4th out of a pool of about 30 teams.

USACO: Daniel Wisdom and Franklyn Wang qualified for the USA Computing Olympiad Camp! They were 2 of 26 students selected from a huge pool of competitors across the US, and are entered to possibly represent the US at the International Olympiad for Informatics. They will be attending the upcoming camp at Clemson University.

TJIOI:
In an effort to give back to the community, the Computer Team ran an event TJIOI for outreach to other schools in the area in the field of competitive programming. We ran it in the past, but had a 4-year gap. The contest ran very smoothly, with Paul VI High School winning first place. The participants enjoyed the contest, and look forward to attending next year.

Special thanks to team sponsors, Mr. Stephen Rose, Mr. Thomas Rudwick, and Ms. Nicole Kim.
Forensics and Congressional Debate Teams

Forensics Speech
Captain: Thomas Mecherikunnel, Non-Interp Events
Captain: Sai Mada, Interp events
Assisting Captain: Louise Hicks
Recruitment Officer: Sachin Jain
Treasurer: Siddartha Edara
Communications Officer: Louise Hicks

Congressional Debate
Captain: Victoria Bevard
Vice-Captain: Sharon Liu
Team Development Director: Dany Matar
Mentorship Directors: Nash Hemrajani, Kaleb Marioghae
Treasurer: Leela Ramineni
Fundraising Coordinator: Arvind Govinday


TJ qualified 13 speech entries and 9 Congressional Debate entries to the WACFL Metrofinals.

The TJ metrofinal students qualifying for the NCFL Grand National Tournament in Sacramento are as follows: Louise Hicks placing 2nd in Oratory, Otilia Danalache 4th in Oral Interp, Thomas Mecherikunnel 2nd in Extemporaneous Speaking, Kamron Soldozy 7th in Extemp, Manu Onteeru 4th in Extemp and 4th in Congressional Debate, and Victoria Bevard 1st in Congressional Debate and earning the Best Speaker Award. TJ also won the Congress Sweepstakes Award and earned 2nd place in the Forensics Sweepstakes Awards.

The Forensics Speech Team at VHSL:
TJ took 14 competitors to the VHSL forensics conference tournament and won the Conference. All 14 advanced to the Regional tournament, with Christina Blake placing 2nd in Poetry and Joseph Mecherikunnel placing 3rd in Impromptu, both advancing to the State Tournament. At the State VHSL Tournament, Christina Blake, placed 2nd in
Poetry. TJ also hosted the VHSL Conference 13 Tournament this year.

The Congressional Debate Team at VHSL:
TJ hosted the VHSL Conference 13 Debate Tournament this year. TJ took 6 Congress competitors to the VHSL regional tournament, and in collaboration with LD, PF, and Policy, was the Regional Champion. The Congressional Debate Team was also awarded the Congress Sweepstakes Award. Five competitors advanced to the State Tournament: Victoria Bevard, Medha Gupta, Aditya Kumar, Sharon Liu, and Manu Onteeru, with Victoria Bevard placing 1st at States. Congressional Debate was thrilled to be part of the TJ Debate Teams that brought home the State Debate Trophy this year.

Competitions at Invitational Tournaments:
TJ jumped into the season at the Wake Forest Invitational in September. Congratulations to Victoria Bevard, who placed 2nd in Congressional Debate, and to Sharon Liu, who placed 11th. At Glenbrooks in Chicago, Victoria Bevard placed 6th in Congressional Debate. TJ took 22 competitors to the George Mason University Patriot Games Invitational in December 2016, Congratulations to Mithra Dhinakaran, Medha Gupta, Dany Matar, and Manu Onteeru, who all advanced to Semifinals in Congressional Debate, and Victoria Bevard, who placed 4th in Congressional Debate Finals. Competitors also went to the Broad Run Invitational Tournament in January, 2017: congratulations to Sachin Jain, who placed 2nd in Extemp and 3rd in Impromptu. We also congratulate Victoria Bevard, who competed at Harvard, placing 9th, and to Manu Onteeru and Dany Matar who both were quarterfinalists at Harvard.

National Speech & Debate Association:
9 students competed for TJ at the NSDA District Tournament. Dany Matar placed 1st in the Senate, and Manu Onteeru placed 2nd in the Senate. Both have advanced to the National Tournament in June.

We also recognize our student members of the National Speech & Debate Association who reached the following degrees of distinction: Degree of Merit: Victoria Agrinya, Turner Bumary, Colleen Choi, Alison Duan, Dylan Kalten, Neel Mandapati, and Matthew Saenz, Degree of Honor: Sophia Kianni, Nikil Shirolkar, and Kamron Soldozy; Degree of Excellence: Arvind Govinday, Louise Hicks, Sachin Jain, and Sai Mada; Degree of Distinction: Medha Gupta, Aditya Kumar, Kaleb Marioghae, Dany Matar, Manu Onteeru, and Leela Ramineni; Degree of Special Distinction: Otilia Danalache, and Sharon Liu; Degree of Superior Distinction: Mithra Dhinakaran and Nash Hemrajani; Degree of Premier Distinction: Victoria Bevard.

This year the NSDA Academic All-American Award was presented to Nash Hemrajani. Victoria Bevard was a finalist for the Exemplary Student Service Award, and Victoria Bevard was awarded the NSDA Virginia Student of the Year Award.
Other News
Academic Letters for 2016/17 Season were awarded to students for their outstanding performance at competitions and significant contributions. Forensics: Victoria Bevard, Christina Blake, Otilia Danalache, Siddartha Edara, Louise Hicks, Sachin Jain, Vikash Kumar, Sai Mada, Joseph Mecherikunnel, Thomas Mecherikunnel, Manu Onteeru, and Kamron Soldozy. Congressional Debate: Victoria Bevard, Mithra Dhinakaran, Arvind Govinday, Medha Gupta, Nash Hemrajani, Aditya Kumar, Sharon Liu, Kaleb Marioghae, Dany Matar, and Manu Onteeru.

The forensics team elected officers for the 2017/2018 year. Congratulations to our Co-Captains, Louise Hicks and Sachin Jain; our Vice Captain, Christina Blake; our Recruitment Officer, Joseph Mecherikunnel; our Communications/PR Officer, Mithra Dhinakaran; and our Treasurer, Otilia Danalache.

The congressional debate team elected officers for the 2017/2018 year. Congratulations to our Co-Captains, Dany Matar and Manu Onteeru; PR/Communications, Medha Gupta; Treasurer, Aditya Kumar; and Fundraising Coordinator, Arvind Govinday.

Special thanks to Academic Boosters, to the TJ Student Activities Staff, to our parents who judge, chaperone, and drive, and to our team coach/sponsor, Mrs. Marie Bakke.
Future Problem Solvers

This year, TJ was the host school for the Virginia Future Problem Solving (VAFPS) State Bowl, held on March 31 and April 1. Over 400 competitors, coaches, and family members attended our State Bowl for the weekend. Construction had just finished, and thanks to TJ’s tireless support staff, we were able to organize all of the many competition rooms and presentation venues needed for the event. Our FPS officers and many parent volunteers helped make our first State Bowl a success. At the State Bowl, former coach/sponsor Margaret Carpenter awarded the Mover and Shaker Award to a TJ Alum, Daniel Sun. At this competition, several TJ FPS teams received trophies:

Global Issues Problem Solving State Winners:

*Middle Team (Freshmen) 2nd place:
Avyuk Dixit, Samuel Kim, Jerry Li, and Jungmin Shin*

*Senior Team 2nd place:
Rachel Sequeria, Jessica Wang, Sania Ali, and Rayana Matin*

*Senior Team 3rd place:
Frank Tian, Charles Zhang, Jiaxuan Qin, and Tina Tarashi*

The Middle Team and Senior Team will move on to compete in the International Competition, from June 8 to June 11 at the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse!

Thank you again to all of the officers who contributed their time, effort, and enthusiasm this year! Thank you, Academic Boosters, for your support!

Special thanks to our team sponsor, Mrs. Nancy Glover!
History Quiz Bowl

This year, History Quiz Bowl participated in three regional tournaments and one national competition. Two of the regional tournaments were hosted at TJ—the D.C. Metro History Bowl and the Northern Virginia History Bowl—both of which attracted over 20 teams as well as some of the top History Quiz Bowl schools in the country. In doing so, we provided greater accessibility of the game to other schools in our region and helped introduce many newcomers to an activity which fosters a greater appreciation of history. This year, our initiative to expand our membership resulted in us becoming the largest program represented at nationals.

At the D.C. Metro History Bowl, TJ’s JV team placed 2nd while our Varsity team placed 1st. TJ’s JV team also placed 2nd at the Northern Virginia History Bowl and clinched 1st at the Capital Region History Bowl, where the Varsity team finished 2nd place. Divjot Bedi, Caroline Hatcher, Rohan Hegde, Alex Howe, James Kuang, Grant Li, Prithvi Nathan, Theo Ouzhinski, Junyan Peng, Karthik Prasad, Naman Rai, Arvind Ravipati, Athilesh Thanigai, William Vroom, Andrew Wang, Kevin Wang, William Wang, Millan Welman, Benjamin Xu, Fred Zhang, and Ruyan Zhang represented TJ at tournaments this year.

Over 250 teams from around the nation participated in the National History Bee and Bowl, with TJ among them. Our JV A team of Fred Zhang, James Kuang, Kevin Wang, William Wang, and Benjamin Xu finished an impressive 6th in the nation amidst strong competition while the Varsity A team of Rohan Hegde, Alex Howe, Grant Li, and Andrew Wang made a strong run to claim 2nd place in the nation. In the US History Bee, Fred Zhang placed 3rd in the JV division and Rohan Hegde placed 2nd in the Varsity division. In the National History Bee, Rohan Hegde placed 6th in the Varsity division.

Most importantly, many new members have expressed to us how our club has helped them foster a newfound appreciation for the rich field of history. We have had a great season and look forward to another year!

Special thanks to team sponsor, Mr. Jay Wickliff!
Japan Bowl

Japan Bowl is a national competition that tests students on the Japanese language, history, and culture in a quiz bowl format. The Japan Bowl competition has three subdivisions based on the level of the student’s Japanese curriculum. This year, as in many previous years, TJ sent three teams consisting of three members each.

The National Japan Bowl this year was held on 4/6 and 4/7 in Washington D.C. All three teams worked together year round to study the vast knowledge about Japanese language and culture. Once again, they represented TJ very well at the competition while making friends from around the country.

This year the level 2 team consisted of Michelle Yue, Yujung Lee, and Helena Lu, the level 3 team of Atharva Haldankar, Kathy Kang, and Joey Kwon, and the level 4 team of Woohyeong Cho, Hayun Chong, and Theresa Reese. Students spend time during eighth periods and out of school to extensively research topics on Japanese culture, such as daily rituals, religion, and traditional arts/games, as well as unique aspects of the language, including grammar, onomatopoeia, and affective expressions. The Japan Bowl competition is comprised of two preliminary rounds, a conversation round, and a championship round, in which each teams directly compete against other teams at their level from other schools. Thus, students hone their Japanese listening and reading comprehension, as well as strengthen their speaking.

Throughout the years, the Japan Bowl team has done exceedingly well, consistently placing within the top 5. This year, out of the dozens of schools from all over the country participating in this competition, the level 2 and level 3 teams placed second nationally, while the level 4 team was also ranked in the top 10 in their subdivision.

Special thanks to the team sponsor, Mr. Koji Otani.
Math Team

Varsity Math Team (VMT) participated in both the Duke Math Meet and the Princeton University Math Competition in November. At Duke, our A Team finished 1st, our B Team finished 3rd, our D team finished 6th, and our C team finished 9th. At Princeton, our A Team finished 1st place in the proof-based Power Round and 3rd place overall in Division A.

We sent seven teams to the Carnegie Mellon Informatics & Mathematics Competition in January, a unique competition which combines math and computer science. One of our teams placed 2nd overall.

At the Harvard-MIT meet in February, our A Team finished 5th place overall.

In April, three teams participated in Purple Comet, an online international team competition. One of our 6-person TJ teams won 1st place in the high school division with a perfect score!

We’re celebrating a strong performance this year in the AMC series. Seventeen TJ students qualified to take the proof-based USA (Junior) Mathematical Olympiad [USA(J)MO] exam.

USAMO qualifiers were Adam Ardeishar, Scott Becker, Michael Huang, Akshaj Kadaveru, Joshua Lee, Shwetark Patel, Aaditya Singh, Franklyn Wang, and Jeffery Yu.

USAJMO qualifiers were Alex Chung, Ajit Kadaveru, Benjamin Kang, Neeyanth Kopparapu, Ryan Kim, Samuel Kim, Andrew Yoon, and Fred Zhang.

Adam, Joshua, and Ben performed particularly well, qualifying for the prestigious Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program.

VMT’s last competition of the year is the ARML, which will take place in early June at Penn State. Students look forward to this event not only because it is a time to have fun, but also to meet friends from all over the East Coast and compete with the top teams throughout the country.

This year we organized the 28th annual Thomas Jefferson Intermediate Math Open, a local competition for middle-school students, which was a huge success. We had a turnout of 100 middle school students, who were coached by 38 student-coaches from TJ. VMT students wrote all of the contest problems.

We also successfully started AMC tutoring sessions, which were double-block 8th period
activities designed to pair students with more experienced members of VMT, who were to help them work through practice AMC 10 and AMC 12 tests. We had two different sessions this year in January and February, and each was attended by 71 students.

Finally, we had two booths at TJHSST Techstravaganza this year to teach middle-school students about the math behind magic squares and various strategy games.

Special thanks to our sponsors this year: Mrs. Margaret Coffey, Ms. Pat Gabriel, Mr. David Hill, and Dr. Amy Lampazzi.
The 120+ member TJ Model United Nations team had an incredibly successful season this past year, competing at a total of three national conferences and four local high school run conferences.

Our crowning achievement of the year was winning the Best Large High School award at the William and Mary High School Model UN Conference (WMHSMUN), where the team was able to beat out several other big schools on the East Coast model UN circuit.

Other national college conferences we attended include University of Pennsylvania’s Ivy League Model United Nations Conference (ILMUNC) and George Washington University’s Washington Area Model UN Conference (WAMUNC).

Other notable school awards the club won this year were the Best Large School award at Langley’s high school conference (VIMUNC) and two Outstanding Large School awards, one each at Mclean’s high school conference (McMUNC) and Chantilly’s high school Conference (CHMUN).

Besides competing at other schools, TJMUN had the pleasure of hosting our own conference, TechMUN, in the newly renovated building this year! We hosted a total of 40 other middle and high schools, with hundreds of delegates from across the Northern Virginia and Maryland areas attending. The student-run conference featured 17 committees, ranging from UN Committees such as UN Framework on Climate Change, to historical bodies such as the 1884 Berlin Conference, and even crisis simulations of organizations such as the 2026 Centers for Disease Control.

In all, TJMUN had a fantastic year, not only succeeding in competition at conferences and administration of TechMUN, but learning a great deal about major global issues and international relations as well.

Special thanks to team sponsor, Sra. Alexandra Y. Pou!
TJ Ocean Bowl had a successful season competing at the Chesapeake Bay Bowl, a jeopardy-like buzzer competition on oceanography topics sponsored by the National Ocean Sciences Bowl.

At the Chesapeake Bay Bowl on February 4th at the University of Delaware, TJ’s A team took second place competing against 11 other teams from several states, winning all of its round robin rounds and 3 of its 4 single elimination rounds.

TJ’s A team consisted of Jennifer Baily (captain), Katherine Barbano (captain), Madeline Old, Richard Pan, and James Ma; while TJ’s B team consisted of Stephan Seo (captain), Mark Kurapatti (captain), Aarushi Tripathy, Mark Putnam, and Timothy Lou. Throughout the year, the teams worked very hard to prepare for competition and to learn about ocean sciences.

Special thanks to team sponsor, Ms. Lisa Wu!
The mission of TJ Physics Team is simple: to foster a passion for physics. Our officers come into every meeting aiming to share their passion for physics and show the members that physics is beautiful. We aim to spark interest in those who are beginning to learn physics, while providing a training ground for more experienced members. We aspire for every member to take away new insights and improve their problem solving skills at our meetings. In fulfillment of this mission, we have three different teams (A, B, and C) to cater to students’ varying abilities, ranging from no experience to post-AP Physics level.

Over 80 students participated in the U.S. Physics Team F=ma competition. The mission of the U.S. Physics Team Program is to promote and demonstrate academic excellence through preparation for and participation in the International Physics Olympiad. We had well over 20 students qualify for the USAPhO Semifinal Exam, which only 400 students qualify for nationwide. Of these students, Franklyn Wang earned a Gold Medal; Aaditya Singh and Kody Stremick earned Silver Medals; and Katherine Cheng, Matthew Cox, Amit Gupta, Joshua Lee, Aadith Vittala, Michael Stepniczka, and Jeffery Yu earned Bronze Medals.

Please see https://activities.tjhsst.edu/physics/index.html for more information.

Special thanks to team sponsor, Dr. John Dell!
Policy Debate Team

This year’s Policy Debate season was amazing. The debaters showed incredible perseverance and growth throughout the season thanks to our phenomenal varsity members and new enthusiasts.

The 2016-2017 officers were:

Co-Captains: **Elizabeth Hu** and **Jessie Shen**;
Teaching Coordinators: **Gulnaz Sayed** and **Zulekha Tasneem**;
Treasurer: **Ankit Agrawal**; Publicist: **Sean Ji**

**WACFL 1:**

At the first local tournament of the year, In the Varsity Division, the teams of **Zulekha Tasneem** and **Gulnaz Sayed** got 1\textsuperscript{st} place, while **Aaraj Vij** and **SJ Kachru** got 3\textsuperscript{rd} place. Both teams now have a full qualification for the Varsity Metrofinals. **Zulekha** and **Gulnaz** also got 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} place speaker respectively. In Junior Varsity, the teams of **Katie Zhang** and **Reena Medavarapu** got 2\textsuperscript{nd} place, with **Katie** getting 2\textsuperscript{nd} place speaker as well. Finally, in the Novice division, first-time teams, **Timothy Duong** and **Erick Tian** got 4\textsuperscript{th} place, and **Kathy Li** and **Malavika Pillai** got 6\textsuperscript{th} place. Both teams earned a half qualification to the JV Metrofinals.

**WACFL 2:**

This tournament had a large showing of up-and-coming teams. In JV, TJ swept from 7\textsuperscript{th} to 3\textsuperscript{rd} place with the teams of **Timothy Liu** and **Sreya Yadlapalli**, **Eugene Jeong** and **Kevin Liang**, **Yuhei Hattori** and **Jack Liu**, **Erick Tian** and **Timothy Duong**, and **Kevin Cho** and **Timothy Han**, in that order. **Timothy Han** also got 1\textsuperscript{st} place speaker. In Varsity, the teams of **Katie Zhang** and **Reena Medavarapu** got 6\textsuperscript{th} place, and **Sean Ji** and **Ankit Agrawal** got 3\textsuperscript{rd} place. Those teams now have a full qualification to the Varsity Metrofinals. **Ankit Agrawal** also got 1\textsuperscript{st} place speaker.

**WACFL 3:**

At the “Mega” in the Novice division, the team of **Yash Shekhar** and **Jun Chong** got 4\textsuperscript{th} place in their first tournament. **Yash** also got 1\textsuperscript{st} speaker. In JV, the team of **Reena Medavarapu** and **Rayyan Khan** got 2\textsuperscript{nd} place, and now have a full qualification to the JV Metrofinals. In Varsity, **Aaraj Vij** and **SJ Kachru** got 3\textsuperscript{rd} place. **Aaraj** also got 2\textsuperscript{nd} place speaker.

**WACFL 4:**

In JV, 1\textsuperscript{st} place went to the team of **Rayyan Khan** and **Alice Nolan**. A new pair, **Brian Park** and **Sam Kim** got 2\textsuperscript{nd} place, while **Jun Chong** and **Yash Shekhar** got 6\textsuperscript{th} place. **Alice Nolan** also got 1\textsuperscript{st} place speaker.

**WACFL 5:**

This was the last opportunity qualify for the Metrofinals. In JV, the team of **Jun Chong** and **Yash Shekhar** got 2\textsuperscript{nd} place overall, and **Malavika Pillai** and **Sreya Yadlapalli** got
5th place. Malavika Pillai also got 3rd place speaker.

**WACFL Metrofinals:**

TJ had its greatest showing ever at the MetroFinals. Every active debater qualified for the tournament. In Varsity, the teams of Ankit Agrawal and Sean Ji, Gulnaz Sayed and Zulekha Tasneem, and SJ Kachru and Aaraj Vij claimed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place respectively. These three teams all qualified for the NCFL Nationals Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky on May 27th. Ankit Agrawal also got 2nd place speaker. Timothy Duong and Erick Tian won 1st place in JV, while Eugene Jeong and Kevin Liang got 3rd. TJ won the WACFL Sweepstakes with the highest possible amount of points! TJ also placed in the top 6 at each WACFL 23 times and amassed 124 total ballots, more than any other school.

**Capitol Beltway Fall Classic:**
At this regional tournament, Zulekha Tasneem and Gulnaz Sayed hit a major milestone in their debate career. They were semifinalists, winning their first out-round in the first tournament they cleared. They were one round short of a ToC bid. Gulnaz and Zulekha got 7th and 10th place speakers, respectively, and Sean Ji got 9th place to top it all off.

**43rd Annual Harvard National Forensics Tournament:**
TJ sent four teams to the Harvard tournament this year, 2 in Varsity and 2 in JV. The Varsity teams, which have shown immense improvement over the past few years, debated well against some hard draws. In the JV division, however, the team of SJ Kachru and Aaraj Vij got 1st place overall. This is a huge accomplishment, as many college debate coaches and summer camp mentors now have their eye on this TJ team.

**Pennsbury Falcon Invitational:**
There were a total of 6 teams sent to this tournament this year. The four Varsity teams did well in a hypercompetitive environment with some of the best teams from the Northeast attending. Ankit Agrawal and Sean Ji broke in the Varsity National tournament for the first time. In JV, the teams of Rayyan Khan and Alice Nolan and Timothy Duong and Erick Tian broke as well. Both teams won their first out-round and Rayyan Khan and Alice Nolan advanced to Finals in a coach-over.

**VHSL progression:**
TJ did amazing at each of the VHSL Tournaments. Ankit Agrawal and Sean Ji won the Districts tournament. Gulnaz Sayed and Zulekha Tasneem came in 1st place at regionals while Sean Ji and Ankit Agrawal came in 2nd. The same results as regionals occurred at states. Ankit Agrawal, Sean Ji, and Zulekha Tasneem also got 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, speakers, respectively, at States. TJ also got the overall sweepstakes at States.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the help from our coach, Alex Lennon, and assistant coach, Rahul Soni. Thank you to all of the parents that judged at tournaments and for the support of Academic Boosters.
TJ’s Public Forum debate team traveled to 14 tournaments across the East Coast this year, where we accumulated a variety of accolades, specifically at large national tournaments. At Wake Forest, one team broke to the Triple Octafinals round. One team broke to semifinals at the Commonwealth Season Opener. At the Capitol Classic, two teams broke to out rounds, with one reaching the finals and receiving a TOC bid. At that same tournament, two speakers placed in the top 10. Locally, at the WACFL Metrofinals, the conclusion of a series of local WACFL tournaments for which 11 teams qualified, one team placed third overall, qualifying for NCFLs, and TJ Public Forum placed third in its division, contributing to an overall TJ Debate Sweepstakes win. Two of our teams advanced in the VHSL competition with one going to States. They again contributed to an all TJ State win this year. Special kudos go out to juniors Meghana Boojala and Maddie Min, who will be competing at Nationals, and to sophomores Sophia Pentakalos and Vivian Lin for making it to States.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate also had a very successful year. We attended many competitive national circuit tournaments, including the Capitol Classic, GMU, Princeton, Penn, and Harvard. Congratulations to Naman Baraya (11), Aakash Shukla (12), and Amitesh Kotwal (11) for breaking to Octafinals at Liberty Bell in Varsity and Megan Dass (9) and Avyuk Dixit (9) for breaking to Octafinals in JV. Congratulations to Shivam Kollur (12) and Naman Baraya (11) for breaking to triple Octafinals at Harvard in Varsity and Priyanka Mehta (10) in JV. Back home, TJLD Debate also won big, with the trophy for most points accrued all year in the WACFL LD! At Metrofinals, we had two debaters place in the top six in the Varsity tournament: Rachel Ma (11) placed fifth overall and Aakash Shukla (12) placed sixth overall, qualifying both to Nationals. Rachel Ma (11) and Yukta Chidanandan (10) will represent TJ at Nationals this year. In VHSL, we sent two students, Baraya and Ma, to Regionals, and Baraya to States.

Both divisions joined with TJ Student Congress and Policy to qualify Thomas Jefferson as the overall Sweepstakes winner in WACFL and State Debate winner in VHSL.

Special thanks to team sponsor, Ms. Jennifer Seavey!
TJ Quizbowl had another successful year, thanks to the generous support of Academic Boosters and our two coaches, Mr. John Laffey and Ms. Mildred Harris.

This year has been one of the most successful in TJ Quizbowl’s history. It started off with a bang, with the A team winning three different regional tournaments held at UVA, VCU, and Centennial High School.

The team continued their winning streak by capturing their second consecutive VHSL state title in February, edging out a strong Princess Anne team in a nail-biting final.

They closed out the year just as they had started it, by winning the final regional tournament of the season at Georgetown University.

By virtue of their success, TJ qualified three teams for the Quiz Bowl National Tournaments, where they hope to cap off this terrific season with another victory.
Underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Team

Faculty Sponsor:
Ms. Lisa Wu

2016-2017 Student Officers:
Sebastian Criado, Vasil Iakimovitch, Avyuk Dixit, Anoushka Chintada, and Ethan Phillips

TJ’s Underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) team competed at the MATE ROV Regional Competition, an engineering competition in which teams build ROVs capable of completing competition tasks in an underwater environment.

During the competition, which took place on April 22 at Old Dominion University, TJ’s Underwater ROV Team placed 5th overall against several other robotics teams.

The TJ ROV team consisted of Sebastian Criado (CEO), Avyuk Dixit (ROV Pilot), Patrick Mullin (Co-pilot), Vasil Iakimovitch (Project Manager), Henry Nester, Sophia Kianni, Anoushka Chintada, Joshua Gong, and Ethan Phillips. We spent the whole year designing and building our ROV.

Special thanks to team sponsor, Ms. Lisa Wu!
Every year, the TJ’s Rubik’s Cube Club sends eight members to participate in the *You Can Do the Rubik’s Cube* team competition. Teams compete to solve 25 Rubik’s Cubes as fast as possible.

This year, the TJ team came in *1st* place IN THE WORLD WITH A TIME OF 58.851 seconds!

Results over the years:

- **2011**: 1st place
- **2012**: 1st place
- **2013**: 1st place
- **2014**: 2nd place
- **2015**: 2nd place
- **2016**: 1st place
- **2017**: 1st place

2017 TJ Team Senior Coaches:
- **Landon Chu** (Senior)
- **Anoop Kalra** (Senior)

2017 TJ Team Members:
- **David Chao** (Senior)
- **Shreya Wadehra** (Junior)
- **Shreyan Jaiswal** (Junior)
- **Erick Tian** (Sophomore)
- **Andrew Nam** (Sophomore)
- **Justin Gou** (Sophomore)
- **William Yao** (Sophomore)
Members of the TJ team first meet through tryouts, which are often hosted in January. Candidates are selected on the basis of a combination of speed, which is gauged through solve times, and teamwork, which is noted through club participation and availability. After the tryout period, team members spend the next two months practicing together three times a week before attending the competition!

Additionally, all individual members of the club are encouraged to participate in competitions hosted by the World Cubing Association. These are official competitions where people meet other Rubik’s Cube solvers and break records!

In fact, this year, TJ hosted its very first official World Cubing (rubik’s cube) competition: the TJHSST Fall 2016! The event was very successful and profitable, so we hope to make this competition an annual event.

The team would like to thank the club sponsor Ms. Christine Conklin for an incredible amount of work towards keeping the club together, the parent volunteers who graciously offered to help with transportation, and club officers Kieran Beaumont and Frank Ding!

We are incredibly sad that our four-year Senior Members (Landon Chu, David Chao, and Anoop Kalra) are leaving for college. Their enthusiasm for TJ Cubing and dedication to teaching new members has been outstanding!
This year the TJ Science Bowl team had its most successful year in recent history. More than 100 students applied, and the team was put together in mid-October. Captain Franklyn Wang led the team this year with Neeraj Prasad, Joyce Tian, Aaditya Singh, and Charles Wang. The team was sponsored and coached by Laura McConnaughey.

In late October, the TJ Science Bowl team gave its very first public seminar, “Succeeding in Olympiad Competitions”, along with co-host Hope Chinese School. The public response was overwhelming, and the seminar was lauded by many middle school teachers, parents, and students.

At the Regional Science Bowl competition in early February, TJ went undefeated in the round-robin section. In the double elimination section, in spite of a narrow loss to Princess Anne, TJ fought back through the one-loss bracket to win the entire competition, earning the regional championship title, a trip to the National Science Bowl competition, and $750 for TJ’s science department.

At the National Science Bowl competition in May, the field was much stronger. In the round-robin section, TJ lost a tough round to Mira Loma, a five-time National Champion. However, the team still qualified for the double-elimination round as a 2nd place finisher. By finishing in the Top 16 teams nationally, the TJ science department earned an award of $1000. In addition, the TJ team won the Design and Team Challenge for the first time ever, earning another $500.

With greater ambitions in the team’s minds, and after a close loss in the 1st round of the Double Elimination Tournament, the team came from behind to win six games in a row in the consolation bracket, ultimately taking home 2nd place. In addition to a trophy, the whole team won a seven-day all-expenses paid adventure trip to Alaska. The team wishes to thank all the support they have received from their parents and TJ teachers over the year.
Science Olympiad

2016-2017 Student Officers:
Akshay Balaji, Katie Ahn, John Krause-Steinrauf, Keerthi Puvvada, Gerald Wu

Science Olympiad is a team competition where students compete in a variety of events ranging over different scientific disciplines.

TJ Science Olympiad (TJSO) competed in their annual regional competition on Sunday, February 12. The team placed first overall; individual teams placed 1st, 2nd, and 4th; and individual competitors brought home 1st place medals in 13 of the 20 events! TJ swept 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in both Ecology and Optics; additionally, all three teams medaled (placed 6th or lower) in Astronomy, Experimental Design, Microbe Mission, and Rocks and Minerals. Huge congratulations to all of the students involved in planning and preparing for their events! They did a marvelous job! Among them are TJSO seniors Nakul Dar, Katie Ahn (co-captain), Akshay Balaji (captain), Pranab Krishnan, Jayant Subramanian, Aadith Vittala, and Jerry Wu (webmaster) at the Lake Braddock Regional. A huge thank you to parent volunteers, especially parent coach Beth Chung!

A single team of 15 students and 4 alternates competed in the Virginia State Science Olympiad competition on Saturday, March 25. The team placed 2nd overall.

Every year, TJSO competes in at least four competitions of varying levels: invitational, regionals, states, and nationals. TJSO has placed 1st twice and 2nd twice in the past four years at the state level.

Thanks so much to our wonderful team coach and dedicated sponsor, Mrs. Aubrie Holman!
# Academic Boosters Donors, 2016-2017

## Diamond ($1000 and above)

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<th>Scott Becker (2018)</th>
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## Platinum ($500 – $999)

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## Gold ($250 – $499)

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<td>Arnold Zhang (2019)</td>
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<td>Suhoon Oh (2017)</td>
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## Silver ($100 – $249)

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**Bronze (~ $99)**

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</table>
George Tang (2019)

**Faculty & Staff**

Stephen Rose

**Matching Companies**

*These organizations supported Academic Boosters by matching funds donated by boosters.*

Northrop Grumman
Microsoft
TJ Academic Boosters’ mission is to support TJ’s many outstanding academic teams, including Aerospace Initiative, Biology Olympiad, Botball (Robotics), Certamen (Latin), Chemistry Olympiad, Chess Team, Computer Teams, Debate Teams, Future Problem Solvers, History Quiz Bowl, Japan Bowl, Math Team, Model United Nations, Ocean Bowl, Physics Team, Quiz Bowl, Underwater ROV, Rubik’s Cube, Science Bowl, and Science Olympiad. We aim to cover tournament entry fees, teacher travel costs, and other expenses as our funds permit.

We encourage every TJ family to support TJ’s academic teams by supporting Academic Boosters.

**Join!**

**Membership Category:**
- □ Bronze - $50
- □ Silver - $100
- □ Gold - $250
- □ Platinum - $500
- □ Diamond $1000 & up

Donations to TJ Academic Boosters are fully tax-deductible. All donors/donor families will be recognized on our website and in the booklet for Academic Boosters’ annual Awards Banquet for TJ’s Academic Teams.

Donations of $250 and greater will also be acknowledged with a letter as required by the IRS.

Student(s) Name and Grade:___________________________________________________________
Student’s team (if any):_______________________________________________________________
Parent’s Name(s):___________________________________________________________________
Parent’s Phone: ___________________________________________________________________
Parent’s Email: _____________________________________________________________________
Form of Payment (circle): Check    PayPal    Cash    MasterCard    Visa    Amex
Name on account: ________________________________________________________________
Account number (if using credit card): ________________________________________________
Expiration Date:_____________________________________________________________________
CVC Number:______________________________________________________________________

If your company has a matching gifts program, please ask your employer how to make your contribution go twice as far!

**Volunteer!**

Academic Boosters runs on parent volunteers! It’s a great way to get to know some other parents and the school! Please check the box if you’d be willing to volunteer in some capacity. We’ll follow up!

- □ Yes, I’ll help! Contact me to discuss how at ____________________________________________.

Academic Boosters, Inc.
[https://academics.tjhsst.edu/aboosters/](https://academics.tjhsst.edu/aboosters/)
LIKE or FOLLOW our Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/TJAcademicBoosters](https://www.facebook.com/TJAcademicBoosters)
Academic Boosters Board
2016-2017

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