

Student Services Advisory Board
January 18, 2007 Minutes

For those of you that did not attend the Parent-to-Parent Panel on the college application process, the power points of Jeremy Epstein and Alan Krishnan can be found online at www.epsteinmania.com/tj-college.pdf and www.epsteinmania.com/tj-college1.pdf.

The use of Blackboard varies by teacher. It is a difficult endeavor to keep it up to date at the end of a busy day. Teachers that do not put all of their assignments online use other methods to inform the students. Some teachers over use Blackboard by putting too much reading material online. Others post assignments too late to give students ample time to do the work. Mrs. Pitkin will discuss guidelines with teachers.

Off Campus Lunch for Seniors has been successful. It is SGA sponsored and students must apply to participate. They must have parental permission, qualifying GPA, and good attendance in 8th period activities. Security passes are revised each quarter. Students receive 1 warning for returning to campus late.

Recycling is not kept up at TJ, other than paper, mainly because the bins would need to be emptied daily to prevent smells and bugs and there is currently no system for collection on a daily basis. Parents feel that soda can recycling would be worth the effort.

Virginia is currently considering legislation that would necessitate having parents give permission for any club their child participates in. If passed, this Bill could make 8th period activities difficult to manage. We could possibly offer opt out forms. Contact your State Legislators to let them know what this legislation could do to TJ.

TJ does not hold a Parent/Teacher conference day as other schools do. It is not felt that 5 to 7 minutes with a teacher is beneficial nor worth the time taken away from teaching or planning. Conferences can be set up through your child's counselor. Back-to-School Night is an opportunity to meet teachers and, if you feel the need to talk with a teacher, about problems or to compliment them, just call or email to set up an appointment.

The Ethics Forum held in the Spring for Sophomores is in need of financial aid. There are great speakers lined up for March but without funds for busses the students will not be able to attend. Anyone with connections to corporations willing to help finance should contact MaryAnn Bosley.

The high-tech display being built outside the front office will display digital imagery of the academic performance and research achievements of Jefferson students. Look for it to be in use at the end of the month. It was made possible by a grant from the Reinsch-Pierce family.

A surprise, recognition celebration for the 14 semi-finalists in the Intel Science Talent Search was postponed on Wednesday due to the power outage. It will be held on Friday, January 19, 2007. All of the students that entered the contest will be included. Nationwide there are 300 semifinalists; TJ has the largest number from one school. Many of the semifinalists participated in a summer program so administration may reconsider the decision to end participation in summer mentorships.

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PTSA is willing to help keep the Library open to students on late bus nights (Monday and Wednesday) if there are enough volunteers to chaperon. Contact PTSA if you would like to help out.

New courses for the 07-08 school year: Leadership (does not count for the 4th Social Studies requirement); Science Policy Program (grade 12 only); Neuroscience Research Lab; Video Production I; Telecommunication History, Theory, and Application; Systems Engineering: Year Two (year one is not a prerequisite); Numerical Analysis (alternates with Complex Variables); Mathematical Investigations; and Chinese 3.

This and that:

- Early decision statistics are not available for this year, yet.
- Planning for a new school building may begin next Fall!! A Referendum Bond will be needed to fund either a renovation or a new building.
- The course guide for next year will be out on Jan. 29th. Students will begin meeting with their counselors to plan their schedules.
- Graduates choose the name that they want on their diplomas. Mrs. Moore reviews all of the requests and, so far, no one has requested any unacceptable names.
- The numbered parking spaces are designated for teachers and students. Parents that visit the school should not park in numbered spaces. Find out where the visitor and volunteer spots are and please use them.
- Administration has had to deal with a couple issues of drug use on campus this year. Communicate with your children regarding drugs and alcohol.