

Thomas Jefferson Middle School
Eighth Grade Galileo Program for Gifted and Academically Talented Students
Registration Year 2012-13

Dear Student and Parents,

Thank you for your interest in the Galileo Program at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. The program is designed to meet the needs of gifted and academically talented students through their middle school years. Students will be exposed to a rigorous core curriculum in advanced studies that requires critical thinking, creative writing, and independent reading and investigation. Additionally, all students accepted into the program will be expected to complete a Capstone Project during the year.

Galileo students will take their academic classes as a cohort, forming a small learning community of highly motivated individuals. Several elective courses are available for students to choose from, but the core academic program is defined for the duration of the program. Students that complete two years of the Galileo program will be prepared to move seamlessly into honors and advanced placement courses in their high school years.

Please review the information enclosed in this application packet. Successful Galileo students are those that are personally motivated to excel in a challenging environment and contribute to a diverse and dynamic community of learners.

Current seventh grade students at Jefferson should return their completed application to the front office no later than March 21, 2012. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Acceptance decisions will be made before the end of the school year. All students that have been accepted will receive notice in writing by June 15, 2012.

If you have questions about the Galileo Program please contact:

Chad Kirk, Assistant Principal
Galileo Program Coordinator

Phone: 321-453-5154

Fax: 321-459-2854

Email: Kirk.James@brevardschools.org

Thomas Jefferson Middle School
Galileo Program
8th Grade Application
Sherri Bowman, Principal

Student Number: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (M.I.)

Address: _____
(Street) (City) (St) (Zip Code)

Phone: _____
(Home) (Mother/Guardian Cell) (Father/Guardian Cell)

Parent Name(s): _____
(Mother/Guardian) (Father/Guardian)

Parent Email Address: _____

Last Elementary School Attended: _____

Please read the essay prompt below. Think carefully about what you would like to say. Then write your response in **print or cursive**, using your own words, on both sides of **one sheet** of notebook paper. Typed copies will not be accepted.

Based on the attached literature, why do you believe the Galileo Program is the right place for you to conduct your education at Jefferson Middle School?

Please submit a copy of the following with your application:

- Current Report Card
- 2011 FCAT Scores
- Recommendation letters from all academic teachers
- Signed Student/Parent Contract
- Student essay

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

**Thomas Jefferson Middle School
Galileo Program Recommendation Form
CONFIDENTIAL**

Student Name: _____ Teacher Name: _____

Current School: _____ Subject: _____

Please use the following scale when describing this student:

5=Exhibits this trait to an exceptional degree ; 4=Exhibits this trait consistently; 3=Exhibits this trait frequently;
2=Exhibits this trait occasionally; 1=Exhibits this trait rarely

TRAIT	5	4	3	2	1
Learns quickly with good retention					
Adheres independently to deadlines					
Is a keen and alert observer					
Works well in group settings					
Demonstrates strong skills in this subject area					
Is a self-starter					
Is rarely absent and always punctual					
Is highly motivated with a positive attitude about learning					
Is persistent and complete with regard to assignments and class work					
Is prepared for class					
Seeks assistance and tutorials when necessary					
Demonstrates responsibility, dependability, and honesty					
Shows initiative independent of assignment requirements					
Demonstrates acceptable behavior conducive to learning					
Is able to complete long term assignments independently					

*Note: If a behavior has not been observed, please mark a score that reflects the student's ability in this area.

Is this student capable of working successfully in the Galileo Program? _____ YES _____ NO

Please circle one:

I highly recommend I recommend *I recommend with reservations * I do not recommend

*Please do not mark *recommend with reservations* or *do not recommend* without providing a comment. Any comments are helpful and would be appreciated.

Comments: _____

If there is other information you feel would aid the selection committee, please use the back of this form. Information on this form will not be shared with anyone other than the Galileo Program committee.

Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE SEAL THIS RECOMMENDATION IN AN ENVELOPE AND SIGN YOUR NAME ACROSS THE SEAL

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**Thomas Jefferson Middle School
Galileo Program
Student Performance Contract**

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

I understand that the Galileo Program entails a rigorous and challenging course of study. To participate in this program I will be required to complete the following:

- I will maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 for all courses attempted. Students not meeting this requirement will be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the semester. If the student fails to improve their GPA after the probationary period he/she will be dismissed from the program and assigned a class placement that is more appropriate for his/her academic needs.
- I will participate in my education by using the resources at my disposal, including teacher websites, EdLine, academic help sessions, and tutoring to be successful in my classes.
- I will complete a Capstone Project during the school year. Failure to do so will make me ineligible for a Galileo Program award.
- I will complete assignments outside of school hours that require independent reading, investigation, creating, and writing.
- I will complete all class assignments and homework and submit them to my teachers when they are due. Late assignments will result in a grade reduction.
- I will follow the school district's attendance policy and attend school every day I am able. I understand that it is my responsibility to make up any work I miss due to my absence from school.
- I will follow the classroom rules of my teachers as well as all rules that apply to me at Jefferson Middle School. I will not be permitted to disrupt the learning process. Continuous disruption will result in referral to school administration which may result in dismissal from the program.

I have read this contract and understand the requirements for my participation in the Galileo Program.

Student Signature

Date

I have read this contract and understand the requirements for my child's participation in the Galileo Program.

Parent Signature

Date