



Galileo Program for Gifted and Academically Talented Students

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 long term, product-based project on a topic of their choice as a part of their overall grade in their core curriculum classes.**

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. Students currently staffed into their school's gifted program are encouraged to apply.

All new applicants should return their completed application, **with their handwritten essay and parent statement**, to the front office at Jefferson Middle School no later than **February 14, 2020**.

Acceptance decisions will be made after Spring Break. All students who are accepted into the Galileo Program, will receive a letter of acceptance before the end of the school year.

Once a student has confirmed their acceptance into the Galileo program, they are expected to maintain on grade level test scores for all upcoming FSA ELA/Math tests. In the event, these scores are not on grade level, it could result in removal from the program.

If you have questions about the Galileo Program, please contact:

Lena Koch, Assistant Principal
Galileo Program Coordinator
Phone: 321-453-5154
Fax: 321-459-2854
Email: koch.lena@brevardschools.org



Galileo Program Application

Student Number: _____ Grade Next Year: 7 ___ 8 ___ 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.

Discuss a global problem that you would like to solve. It can be a humanitarian problem, an intellectual challenge, or a science research problem, however it should be something that is of personal importance to you. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could take to help solve it.

Please submit a copy of the following with your application:

- Current Report Card
- Recommendation letters from two (2) teachers familiar with your academic work and potential
- Signed Student/Parent Contract with Integrity Statement
- Student essay (handwritten preferred)**
- Parent statement

****Students must be on grade level (FSA Level 3+) to be considered for Galileo.***

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____



Galileo Program Recommendation Form

CONFIDENTIAL

Student Name: _____ Teacher Name: _____

Current School: _____ Subject: Math ** Other: _____

****If Language Arts and Math teacher are the same, please select another teacher or counselor that knows your work habits.**

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					
Thinks outside of the box.					
Demonstrates responsibility, dependability, and honesty					
Shows initiative independent of assignment requirements, to pursue knowledge					
Shares equal responsibility for the final product when working in groups					

*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



**Galileo Program Recommendation Form
CONFIDENTIAL**

Student Name: _____ Teacher Name: _____

Current School: _____ Subject: Language Arts **Other: _____

****If Language Arts and Math teacher are the same, please select another teacher or counselor that knows your work habits.**

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					
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Thinks outside of the box.					
Demonstrates responsibility, dependability, and honesty					
Shows initiative independent of assignment requirements, to pursue knowledge					
Shares equal responsibility for the final product when working in groups					

*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



**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 agree to the following statements. ***Student please initial each box as you read it.***

- 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 maintain on grade level FSA ELA and FSA Math scores.
- 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 prepare a high quality, product-based research project on a topic of my choice while adhering to all assigned deadlines. I understand that this is a requirement of the Galileo Program.**
- 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 child's participation in the Galileo Program.

Parent Signature

Date

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

I will complete my academic assignments using sincere effort and integrity. I will not give or receive unauthorized assistance on my assignments or tests.

Student Signature

Date



Galileo Program Parent Statement

It is important to the faculty of Jefferson's Galileo Program to understand why you, as a parent, feel that the Galileo Program is the most appropriate middle school placement for your child. The Galileo Program isn't simply an academic program, we hope to recruit students who may have specific social-emotional needs that are common amongst gifted and academically talented students.

Please explain in 3-5 sentences below why you and your child have chosen to apply for a place in the Galileo Program at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.