



## 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 handwritten writing prompt response**, to the front office at Jefferson Middle School no later than **February 27, 2023**.

Acceptance decisions will be made after Spring Break. All students who are accepted into the Galileo Program will receive a letter 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:

Barbara Kelly, Assistant Principal  
Galileo Program Coordinator  
Phone: 321-453-5154  
Email: [kelly.barbara@brevardschools.org](mailto:kelly.barbara@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/Guardian's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Elementary School Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Please read the writing 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.**

*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
- Two separate Recommendation letters which can be from any of the following two people: a teacher, church pastor, coach, or volunteer coordinator. They should be familiar with your academic work and/or your character and your potential to be successful in this program.
- Signed Student and Parent/Guardian Contract with Integrity Statement
- Hand-written** student writing prompt response

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**Galileo Program Recommendation Form**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ How do you know the student: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person completing form: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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	N/A
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						
Is persistent and complete with regard to assignments and class work						
Is prepared for class						
Seeks assistance when necessary						
Demonstrates responsibility, dependability, and honesty						
Shows initiative independent of assignment requirements						
Demonstrates acceptable behavior conducive to learning						

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

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.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SEAL THIS RECOMMENDATION IN AN ENVELOPE AND SIGN YOUR NAME ACROSS THE SEAL. Please drop off at Jefferson Middle School or mail to: 1275 South Courtenay Parkway, Merritt Island, FL 32952**



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

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

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**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, Focus, academic help sessions, and tutoring to be successful in my classes.
- 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/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date