



# Jericho Academy

---

A Strength-Based  
Educational Program



# Jericho Academy Committee

---

Lisa Albert - Co-President SEPTA

Dagoberto Artiles - A.P. (HS)

Jeff Baum - Transition Coordinator

Todd Benjamin - Social Worker (HS)

Maria Bombace - Joint PTA Council

Nadine Bouler - English Teacher (HS)

John Castronova - Director of PPS

Lisa Davis - President Joint PTA Council

Eve Mangibin - Guidance Counselor (MS)

Joseph Prisinzano - Asst to the Superintendent

Jason Rubenstein - Guidance Counselor (HS)

Joseph Sapienza - CA PPS (MS/HS)

Danielle Smith - School Psychologist (HS)

Suzanne Valenza - English Teacher (HS)

# What We Did and How We Did It?

---

- Began on October 3rd
- Met as a committee 7 times totaling over 13 hrs of committee time
- Sub-committees (teams) spent month of November visiting alternative programs
- Over 10 programs visitations were completed
- Many additional hours of research were done on members own time in addition to our meeting times
- Created a school mission and a program proposal

# JERICHO ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT

---

The mission of the Jericho School District, Success for Every Student, requires that the district create an educational system that has as its focus nurturing the individual capabilities and unique talents of all members of the educational community. The district is committed to providing an array of programs, opportunities and services that will support all students. The Jericho Academy is a program where students endeavor to meet the challenges of excelling in a rigorous academic curriculum, communicating in an environment of respectful social interaction while developing their individual interests and talents.

# WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

---

The Jericho Academy is a strength-based educational program that was designed to provide a unique academic experience to students who feel underserved by their traditional high school experience.

Within this strength-based approach, the Academy believes in the following tenets:

# WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

- Curriculum that is socially, emotionally and academically relevant with high expectation and multi-layered support for all students
- Assessments designed with an understanding that not all students learn in the same way
- Growth mindset and resilience skill-building , which include stress management, mindfulness-based strategies and greater social-emotional literacy
- Independence fostered through the development of executive functioning, advocacy, social communication, and self-reflection skills

# ADMISSION PROCESS

---

- Steps to admission (TBD)
- Upon admission, a personalized education plan is created with all Academy students based upon a menu of “LINK” services. Our LINK services nurture and empower our students to reach their educational and personal best.

# MENU OF "LINK" SERVICES

---

- **Core Academic Teaming**

All students will share a common English and History Class (daily 90 minute humanities block)

- **Personalized Class Scheduling**

All students are hand scheduled to maximize their strengths and minimize obstacles that may impact their learning.

- **School Community Meeting**

All students and staff will participate in a daily breakfast community meeting where relevant events and concerns can be addressed



# MENU OF "LINK" SERVICES

---

- **Academic Support**

All students receive a minimum of one period per day of focused support in a small, nurturing school environment.

- **Homework Café**

All students have access to the homework café, which is open before and after school

- **Mindfulness Class**

All students have access to one mindfulness based class per week

# MENU OF "LINK" SERVICES

---

- **Healthy Habits of Mind and Body Seminar**

All students and parents have access to our monthly seminars where topics like stress management, executive functioning and organizational strategies will be discussed

- **Alternative Physical Education Program**

Alternate physical activities should be approved for PE credit running, yoga, intramurals, etc.

# The Jericho Academy Proposal

---

## STUDENTS

- Average or better cognitive ability
- 11-12 graders initially
- Aptitude for high-level thinking skills
- Regents diploma candidate
- College-bound
- May display one or more of the following characteristics:  
highly disorganized, socially disenfranchised, poor school and/or class attendance, emotionally vulnerable, focused only on subjects of personal interest, school refusal

# The Jericho Academy Proposal

---

## STAFF

- Selection process for all teaching positions
- FTEs based on enrollment
- Social worker/psychologist: part-time
- Nurse: shared/full-time
- Guidance counselor for all students: part-time
- Special education teacher (learning specialist): full-time
- Administrator/Lead Teacher
- Transition Coordinator

# The Jericho Academy Proposal

---

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- Committed to academic, social, and emotional growth of students
- Mindfulness training for staff (MBSR) and students
- Classes on mindset, resiliency and stress reduction
- Interdisciplinary teams: Humanities, STEM and the Arts
- College classes
- Partnerships w/ local colleges
- Internships with local businesses and organizations
- Technology integration (Apple-School)

# The Jericho Academy Proposal

---

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- *Physical environment*
  - *lighting*
  - *multi-purpose rooms*
  - *same building or same corridor*
- *School community meeting (advisory)*
- *Family-based training*
- *Open forum for all students with staff*

# The Jericho Academy Proposal

---

## LOCATION

- Goal: stand alone facility, off-site within close proximity to the high school
- Wing of the secondary complex (initially)

# The Jericho Academy Proposal

---

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Parent-Ambassador program (1:1 parent-to-parent mentoring)
- Parent University style workshops
- Shared-Decision Making team
- Parent training



# The Jericho Academy Proposal

---

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Hands-on learning
- Student-centered instruction
- Project-based learning

Thank you for your time.

The J.A. Committee

---