

THOMAS JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER

Learning together to understand and improve ourselves, our future, and our world.

A Message from Principal Boggan

I am pleased to share that we successfully completed the first quarter of the 2018-2019 school year at Thomas Jefferson Middle School (TJMS). I have enjoyed meeting so many families at TJMS school events such as: Open House, Back-to-School Night, our Fall Harvest Festival, and PTA meetings. Together we will make this a productive and successful school year for all TJMS students.

Safety is a priority at TJMS. All parents/guardians and visitors must sign in at the main office, provide picture identification, and inform the main office staff of the reason for the visit. In addition, we ask that parents/guardians be mindful of pedestrians and other drivers when dropping off and picking up students, and follow signs and pavement markers.

Our School Management Plan (SMP) for the 2018-19 school year is completed and now a working and breathing document predicated on three goals:

GOAL 1

3-yr. SMART Objective:

By June 2021, Thomas Jefferson Middle School IB trained staff will meet 100% of the standards and practices for IBMYP

GOAL 2

3-yr. SMART Objective:

By June 2021, 100% of non-proficient students in all AMO reporting groups will increase Math and Reading/English Language Arts proficiency levels as indicated. Science and Social Studies failure rates will decrease by 10%.



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Special Dates of Interest:

- Winter Band Concert—12/4 at 7:00PM
- NJHS Sponsored Canned Food Drive—12/5 to 12/19
- Winter Chorus Concert—12/6 at 7:00PM
- Book Fair in TJMS Library—12/10 to 12/14, 8:30AM-3:30PM
- Winter Orchestra Concert—12/11 at 7:00PM
- Fall Sports Banquet—12/12 at 6:30 PM
- Deadline for Holiday Toy Drive with Arlington County Police—12/12
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Literary and Visual Arts Contest, entries due 12/13 by 5:00PM
- Middle School Art Show Reception—12/11 at 6:30PM at Syphax
- Early Release—12/12 at 11:54AM
- PTA Meeting—12/8 at 7:00PM
- No Late Buses, 12/21
- Winter Break, 12/24—1/4
- No School For Students—1/21 & 1/28
- 7th & 8th Grade Science Fair, 1/23

This newsletter is a glimpse into what is happening in non-core classrooms. See your team's weekly email blast for updates from the team.

A Message from Principal Boggan Continued**1-yr. SMART Objective:**

All Students subgroup passing rates are as follows:

MATH	READING
3 – Year 87.14	3 – Year 87.97
Current 84.62	Current 88.86
Previous 88.36	Previous 86.91
GOAL: 86.16 (R10)	GOAL: 89.97 (R10)
VDOE TARGET = 74	VDOE TARGET = 73

Black subgroup passing rates are as follows:

MATH	READING
3 – Year 83.91	3 – Year 81.34
Current 80.45	Current 81.55
Previous 86.78	Previous 80.63
GOAL: 82.41(R10)	GOAL: 83.39 (R10)
VDOE TARGET = 62	VDOE TARGET = 62

Hispanic subgroup passing rates are as follows:

MATH	READING
3 – Year 81.27	3 – Year 82.36
Current 78.26	Current 84.18
Previous 81.58	Previous 81.48
GOAL: 80.43 (R10)	GOAL: 85.76 (R10)
VDOE TARGET = 65	VDOE TARGET = 65

Asian subgroup passing rates are as follows:

MATH	READING
3 – Year 91.44	3 – Year 93.63
Current 89.92	Current 93.71
Previous 93.55	Previous 93.71
GOAL: 90.93 (R10)	GOAL: 94.34 (R10)
VDOE TARGET = 89	VDOE TARGET = 87

Economically Disadvantaged subgroup passing rates are as follows:

MATH	READING
3 – Year 80.40	3 – Year 81.24
Current 77.68	Current 82.70
Previous 81.28	Previous 79.73
GOAL: 79.91 (R10)	GOAL: 84.43 (R10)
VDOE TARGET = 64	VDOE TARGET = 64

English Learners subgroup passing rates are as follows:

MATH	READING
3 – Year 87.36	3 – Year 87.32
Current 88.37	Current 89.66
Previous 88.27	Previous 87.89
GOAL: 89.53 (R10)	GOAL: 84.43 (R10)
VDOE TARGET = 59	VDOE TARGET = 57

Students with Disabilities subgroup passing rates are as follows:

MATH

3 – Year 65.68

Current 65.88

Previous 61.17

GOAL: 69.29 (R10)

VDOE TARGET = 47

READING

3 – Year 64.10

Current 65.95

Previous 58.65

GOAL: 69.39 (R10)

VDOE TARGET = 45

White subgroup passing rates are as follows:

MATH

3 – Year 93.10

Current 90.86

Previous 94.51

GOAL: 91.77 (R10)

VDOE TARGET = 81

READING

3 – Year 95.11

Current 95.32

Previous 93.27

GOAL: 95.75 (R10)

VDOE TARGET = 81

SCIENCE

By June 2019, the failure rate in Science will reduce by 10% (from 13.25 to 11.93 R10) which will result in the passing rate increasing from (86.75 to 88.07). The Students with Disabilities subgroup passing rate on the 2018 Science SOL test will increase from 60.87 to 64.68 (10% failure reduction). The ELL subgroup passing rate on the 2018 Science SOL test will increase from 62.26 to 66.03 (10% failure reduction). The Economically Disadvantaged subgroup passing rate on the 2018 Science SOL test will increase from 68.83 to 71.90 (10% failure reduction).

GOAL 3**3-yr. SMART Objective:**

By June 2018, more than 75% of Thomas Jefferson Middle School parents completing the APS Your Voice Matters Survey will respond “Strongly Agree” or “Somewhat Agree” to the statement, *I collaborate with the staff at my child’s school to continue my child’s development at home as well as at school.*

1-yr. SMART Objective:

By June 2019, 75% of Thomas Jefferson Middle School parents completing the APS Your Voice Matters Survey will respond “Strongly Agree” or “Somewhat Agree” to the statement, *I collaborate with the staff at my child’s school to continue my child’s development at home as well as at school.*

No accomplishment or goal is possible at TJMS without every student, staff, family, and community member believing in and contributing to our school’s commitment to creating and fostering an environment where learning is pervasive for all students.

Thank you for all that you have done, are doing, and will do to ensure Thomas Jefferson Middle School continues to truly be “The Best of the Best!”. Enjoy our TJMS 2018-19 First Quarter Newsletter and best wishes for a wonderful Winter Break!

Sincerely yours,
Keisha Boggan
Principal

A Message from our School Resource Officer

To Provide Safe Routes to school for our children we are asking parents to follow the do's and don'ts below.

When leaving the parent drop off lot:

- DO make a RIGHT TURN ONLY out to the parking lot.
- DON'T make a LEFT TURN when leaving the parking lot between the posted time (6:30 a.m.- 8:30 a.m.) (11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)
- DON'T go STRAIGHT out of the parent drop off lot between the posted times (6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.) (11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)



THIS SIGN MEANS RIGHT TURN ONLY OUT OF THE PARENT DROP OFF LOT, DURING THE POSTED TIMES. DRIVERS WILL BE SUBJECT TO A TRAFFIC CITATION, IF FOUND IN VIOLATION OF MAKING A LEFT TURN AND OR GOING STRAIGHT OUT OF THE PARENT LOT.

- DO drop off you kids in the BLUE DROP OFF ZONE only NOT BEFORE in the parent drop off lot.
- DON'T drop off your kids ANYWHERE along S. 2nd St. curbside.
- DON'T block any CROSSWALKS when dropping off your kids.
- DON'T drop off and of pick up you kids in any of the other parking lots near the school except for the parent drop off lot.
- DO OBEY THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT WHEN DRIVING NEAR THE SCHOOL.

Arlington County Police are conducting a Holiday Toy Drive! Donate new, unwrapped toys to benefit a child in need. Drop off toys to our Student Resource Officer, Corporal Stewart in Room 231 from December 6th—December 12th. Toys can also be donated at Police Headquarters—1425 N. Courthouse Road until December 14th, 2018.

Testing

The ACCESS for ELLs assessment is scheduled to take place at Thomas Jefferson Middle School during the months of January and February and is administered to students who have been identified as English language learners. The ACCESS for ELLs is a K-12 English language proficiency assessment that includes four testing domains – reading, listening, speaking and writing. This assessment helps students and families understand students' current level of English language proficiency. TJMS parents will receive a letter if their son/daughter will be participating in this year's assessment. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Shari Brown, TJMS School Testing Coordinator, via email: shari.brown@apsva.us.

Please go to the Jefferson website (<http://jefferson.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/10/ACCESS-Testing-2018-2019-Calendar.pdf>) for the testing schedule for the 2018-2019 ACCESS for ELLs assessment.

Spanish

In **Spanish II** classes in the first quarter, the students reviewed topics previously taught in Spanish I (personal introductions, school, family and home, pastimes, vacations) and focused on vacations (Chapter 5) before continuing with the textbook (*Descubre 1*, Chapters 6-9). The classes practiced speaking and writing about their vacations with their peers and with the teacher. Grammatical instruction stressed the present and present progressive verb tenses and, most especially, the verbs “ser” and “estar.” Then, the classes transitioned to the chapter on shopping and is currently expanding their language skills in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with emphasis on the preterit (past) verb tense and cultural aspects of shopping. The classes read about the cultural aspects of the countries of Puerto Rico and/or Cuba.

In the first quarter, in **Intensified Spanish I**, the classes began the new textbook (*Descubre 1*, Chapters 1-5) with greetings and farewells and concentrated on personal introductions (verbal and written) between peers and between student and teacher. The students used the singular present tense forms of verbs (“ser,” “estar,” “tener,” “llamarse,” “gustar,” “vivir”) and incorporated noun-adjective agreement in sentence formations in descriptions of others and self. The classes also read about Spanish-speaking people in the United States and Canada and in Spain. Then, the classes transitioned to the chapter on school, focusing on their listening, speaking, reading, and writing language skills and specific topics pertinent to their activities in school. The students will expand their knowledge to include interests/activities in school, after school, and on the weekends.

Spanish

In **Spanish I**, the classes learned vocabulary on greetings, farewells, and courtesy expressions. Grammatical instruction emphasized noun and article agreement in Spanish and the present tense of the verbs “ser” and “estar.” The classes also learned/reviewed the numbers from 0-30 and how to tell time. In culture, the class focused on Hispanics in the United States and Canada. Then, the classes transitioned to the next unit on school and classes, focusing on their listening, speaking, reading, and writing language skills and their activities in school. The students will gain knowledge of interests/activities in school, after school, and on the weekends.

In **Transitional Spanish 6**, the classes focused on descriptions (verbal and written) of self, including one’s school, pastimes, and family and home. Currently, the classes are focusing on the study of the exterior of the home (house or apartment). Grammatical instruction continues to stress noun-adjective agreement and the use of the singular present tense forms of certain verbs (“ser,” “estar,” “tener,” “llamarse,” “vivir,” “gustar”). Culture included the countries of origin of the class members.

In the first quarter, in **Introduction to Spanish** classes, the students learned greetings and expressions of courtesy, classroom objects and commands, singular forms of the verb “ser” in the present tense, and how to tell time.

In **SFS II Grade 8**, the class read autobiographical and realistic genre selections and wrote personal narratives. The students examined metaphors, similes, and poetry, and created travel brochures. Moreover, the class is working on the past tense of regular and irregular verbs.

In **SFS I Grade 7**, the classes focused on myths and legends from Latin America and the Caribbean, searching for a moral lesson. Moreover, the students worked on colloquial conversation. In writing, the classes composed short essays, including their own stories, using sequential mapping. In grammar, the students concentrated on subject-predicate, punctuation, and syllabic division. The classes are currently working on definite and indefinite articles and the differences between “usted” and “tú.”

In **Introduction to SFS 6**, the classes worked with vocabulary on greetings and farewells and expressions of courtesy in relation to families and friends. In grammar, the students used the verbs “ser” and “estar” and definite and indefinite articles. The classes focused on the culture of Bolivia and a reading of “La Niña y el Perro.” Moreover, the classes are working on words with s, z, and c, and, with number and gender of nouns and adjectives.

Latin

Magistra Egbert's 6th grade Introduction to Latin students have learned a lot about Roman culture including Latin greetings, family and animal vocabulary, and Greek mythology. They have also starting learning about Latin adjectives, noun gender, and the basics of personal endings for verbs.

Level I students are learning about the city of Pompeii and the daily life of its citizens. They are reading short passages in Latin and using a variety of Latin phrases. Students are now able to use the nominative and accusative noun cases, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person of verbs, and plural endings.

The Level II class has moved from Pompeii to the province of Roman Britain. The students have worked on reviewing vocabulary and grammar from last year and are now learning new structures such as infinitives, relative clauses, and prepositional phrases.

Latin students from Jefferson and all over Arlington attended a countywide 'mini' Latin convention on September 22nd at Washington Lee High School to prepare for the Virginia Junior Classical League state convention in Richmond on November 18th and 19th. Eleven Jefferson students joined over 1600 other Virginia Latin students at the VJCL convention this year. The following students received awards for their project submissions or exam scores:

- Elizabeth Kisor earned 9th place on the Roman Life exam and 6th place for her small model.
- Sean Howder and Jaray Witherall earned 5th place in the team costume contest.
- Henry Bui earned 5th place for his modern myth composition.
- Astrid Brigham earned 4th place for her jewelry project.
- Lila Derr earned 4th place on the Roman Life exam and 3rd place for her sculpture project.
- Aria Merrill earned 3rd place for her mixed media drawing.
- Keelin McCarty earned 2nd place for her jewelry project.

Congratulation to all who participated! We are also looking forward to the annual APS Saturnalia banquet celebration in December at Yorktown.

American Sign Language

We have been studying American Sign Language and the students have learned about 400 signs! They also know how to have a short conversation about family, animals and school! Please do ask your kids to sign to you! Thank you for having your kids take ASL classes with me! It is a great pleasure teaching them.

Chinese

Chinese Intro: 6th graders

Students have been introduced to the language and some culture, like celebrating Chinese traditional Mid-Autumn Festival with eating moon cakes. This class focus on speaking. Students have learned and were able to introduce their names, age, family, nationality, etc.

Chinese I class: 7th graders

This is 2nd year for most of the learners. We have practiced and focused on listening, speaking skills, a little bit in reading and writing. Students learned about self-introduction, introducing family members, talking about the nationality and parent's occupations. Students can ask and answer relevant questions in complete sentences. We also learned to sing some Chinese songs and experienced Chinese culture, like celebrating Chinese traditional Mid-Autumn Festival with eating moon cakes. Students learned to write essential words or one sentence weekly.

Chinese II class: 8th graders

At the novice-low level, we still focus more on listening and speaking on target language. Some reading and writing (typing on computer) training align with the units. The content we have learned in the 1st quarter is about personal life and school life. The content contains introducing one person to another, transportations, classes and schedule in school, giving directions, borrowing items from a classmate, etc. We learned some Chinese songs and experienced Chinese culture, like celebrating Chinese traditional Mid-Autumn Festival with eating moon cakes. Students had graded dictations with 1-2 sentences weekly.

French

Bonjour! Intro to French and French I Intensified classes have been creating silly stories about imaginary characters. We practice our listening skills to fully understand the stories. French I class has been working on greetings, getting to know each other, and the basics of the French language. French II classes have reviewed French I content from last year by telling stories about each other and imaginary characters. We are currently reading a novel about a nature reserve in Cameroun. All classes are keeping up to date with current events in the Francophone world by reading and summarizing authentic news articles.

Physical Education

Thomas Jefferson's Health & Physical Education department has had an extremely busy 1st quarter. All students have been issued a locker and lock or brought in their own lock to secure belongings in the locker room. If students lose the school issued lock they will be asked to bring in \$6 to replace it. All students have had an opportunity to buy a Thomas Jefferson Health & Physical education uniform. Students are expected to be dressed out in their uniforms for Physical Education class. Uniforms may be purchased at any time throughout the course of the year. Uniforms cost \$18 (\$9 for the shirt \$9 for the shorts). All 7th & 8th graders completed wellness testing which includes, the push-up, curl-up, pacer, sit-n-reach, and trunk lift tests. Each test focuses on one of the 5 components of fitness; cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility. All students will be tested again throughout the year and at the end of the year to track student improvement.

First quarter Health & Physical Education units covered by each teacher include:

- Mr. Heath's classes: Flag football, scooter ball, and social health and relationships, emotional and mental health, sleep, and communication.
- Ms. Pierce's classes: Flag football, volleyball, social health and relationships, emotional and mental health, sleep, and communication.
- Mr. Curran's classes: Ultimate frisbee, floor hockey and mental and emotional health units.
- Mr. Rodriguez's classes: Flag football, badminton, and social and emotional health.
- Mrs. Schoenebecks classes: Cooperative games, social and emotional health, and substance abuse and medication, and violence prevention.
- Mrs. Westcott's classes: Rugby, social and emotional health, and handball.

Family & Consumer Sciences

All FACS classes began with a unit on Strengthening Family Relationships and Communication. Students have been completing projects at home to contribute to their family and learn skills for self-management. In our second unit (Food Preparation), 6th grade students have been learning how to measure ingredients and use kitchen tools and appliances safely. They tested their measuring skills by making their own Cake in a Mug. 7th grade students have been preparing foods from different regions around the USA, like homemade mac and cheese from the South. 8th grade students have been exploring various cuisines from around the world and finished with an International Pizza challenge. Quarter 1 ended with our Nutrition unit.

Technology Education

Inventions and Innovations - Students completed work on a mousetrap powered vehicle. The design process and problem solving were key skills used to develop their vehicles. 3D printers, CAD and laser cutting technology were incorporated. It was incredible to watch our young minds at work!

Technology Education 6 Photoshop skills were developed and turned into works of art! Our 6th grade students had the chance to make dog tags with their own art etched onto microsurface plastics using a laser engraver.

ACT II Technology Education Students recently finished a mousetrap car unit and now get to work with digital input/output controls using the Arduino microcontrollers.

Robotics 8th Grade Students are now well versed in the design process using 3D printers and additive technology. The incorporation of a new carbon-fiber 3D printer allows students to prototype in less expensive materials and create the final products using a high quality material.

Theater Arts

All actors have been creative and busy this first quarter. All the drama students began their year devising and performing very entertaining Lip Sync performance. The 7th graders began studying the history and technique of pantomime. They created some pretty funny performances. The 8th graders learned how to perform and stage a scene. The final performances were impressive. After learning how to work as an ensemble and creating wonderful Lip Sync performances, the 6th graders have been preparing to study and perform the performance technique of Tableau.

Business and Information Technologies

Ms. Lucia:

Design Tech Computers - Grade 6 students worked on improving their words per minute and accuracy on desktop and bluetooth keyboards with EduTyping.

Digital Input Technologies - Grade 7 students became an entrepreneurs in Banzai! as they were introduced to credit.

Computer Applications and Internet Technologies - Grade 8 students practiced composing professional communications documents using Adobe desktop applications.

Yearbook - Grade 8 students discussed theme and concept, examine storylines, looked at visual inspiration, and met with their Jostens Yearbooks Advisor.

Mr. Ammon:

Computer Applications and Internet Technology - Grade 8 students diagramed and explained the hardware inside a computer, researched and documented the role technology plays in their lives, and developed skills with select computer applications like Google Slides and Apple iMovie.

Investigating Computer Science - Students in 7th and 8th grade explored the relationship between computer hardware and software. They also developed an understanding of computer science and programming as a method for problem solving. Using the Scratch programming website (scratch.mit.edu), students demonstrated coding and troubleshooting skills by solving programming challenges.

Inventions and Innovations - Seventh grade students explored the distinction between invention and innovation by researching new products brought to market. Students also developed electronic drafting skills in AutoCAD then output drawings to both our 3D printer and laser engraver.

Visual Arts

Ms. Barbour's 6th grade students are now learning printmaking techniques and creating their own reduction prints, using a process where the linoleum block is gradually carved away and inked with various colors. They finished a unit on the Principles of Design in which they created accordion books as well as a popsicle stick sculpture.

In Ms. E. Shepardson's class, the 8th grade students have been working with clay to create puzzle boxes and their interpretation of a home. The 7th grade students have made amazing looking portraits with their silhouettes and colorful prints. The sixth grade used clay to create round boxes with emoji lids. Act II students have painted bridges in an Impressionist style and are currently painting on T-shirts.

Band

During first quarter, Concert Band (6th grade) have focused on developing musical skills by performing from the Sound Innovations method book and simple multi-part selections for Winter Band Concert. Symphonic Band (7th & 8th grade) performed along with all of the APS middle and high school bands during Middle School Band Night (Yorktown - October 5; Wakefield & Washington-Lee - October 19) and the APS Marching Showcase on October 24th. They also performed during the Patrick Henry ES Halloween Parade on October 31st. During the first half of Quarter 2, both Jefferson Bands will prepare for the Winter Band Concert on Tuesday, December 4th at 7:00 PM here at Jefferson Middle School.

Orchestra

Jefferson's String Orchestra students have spent the first quarter learning ensemble playing and musical skills, such as tone production, articulation, dynamics and balance. The students have played a range of music to develop their skills, music vocabulary and ensemble playing. Many students played at the Harvest Festival, learned two beautiful pieces and played one piece with the Chorus. Many student auditioned for the Junior and Honors Orchestras and all of the TJMS students who auditioned were accepted. All of the classes have been busy preparing the Winter Concert which takes place Dec. 11.

Chorus

All chorus students had the opportunity to perform at the PTA and Garden Committee's Fall Harvest Celebration on October 19th. Several students auditioned for the Virginia Music Educators Association District XII Honors Chorus and the Arlington Middle School Honors Chorus. Nine students were accepted into the District Honor Choir and eleven were accepted in the Arlington Honors Chorus. All classes are beginning a new IB unit on performing with technical accuracy in preparation for their winter performance on Wednesday, December 7h at 7:00 PM in the Jefferson Theater.

Don't miss the Winter Band Concert on December 5 at 6:30 PM, Winter Orchestra Concert on December 12 at 7:00 PM, and the Winter Chorus Concert on December 13 at 7:00 PM!

ESOL/HILT

Ms. Jones' HILT A classes are learning phonemic awareness, letter sounds and are practicing sentence building. Additionally, all students are learning how to use their instructional technology to better assist them with various instructional tasks.

Mr. Lash's HILT-A Science has been working with units on Biomes/Habitats, Adaptations, and Cell Structures/Functions, and will move next into Genetics/Evolution. His HILT-A Language Arts students have been honing basic grammar skills and the ability to re-phrase sentences, as well as planning and writing coherent paragraphs in response to a prompt.

Ms. Chawla's HILTEX English students have been listening to *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds, analyzing the plot of *The Challenge* by Gary Soto and working on how to write a persuasive essay.

IB Programme

Just out the IB Newsletter Page for monthly updates!

<https://jefferson.apsva.us/ib-programme-newsletter/>

iPad Program

To support personalized learning, it is important that students bring their iPads to school every day fully charged. It may help to place the student's backpack next to a charging iPad overnight to prepare for the next school day. Students should report all issues concerning their iPads to their TA teachers. It is hoped that devices will return from repair within 10 business days. Arlington County policy now states that students will be charged for non-accidental damage:

iPad Costs

- Battery – \$60
- Case – \$32
- Charger Port – \$45
- Cracked Glass – \$50
- Digitizer – \$50
- Headphone Jack – \$50
- Home Button – \$40
- Power Supply – \$27.08
- USB Cable – \$11.96
- Complete replacement – \$279.01

Gifted Program

In 7th grade science, Mrs. Detweiler and Mrs. Holland-Shufford have been co-teaching a project based learning unit on cell theory and infectious disease. At the beginning of the unit, students created viruses through simulation software and explored the concept of pandemics. Students used imovie to write, perform, and record news reports describing the characteristics of their disease including the symptoms, transmission, infection rate, and death rate of their simulation. This unit is ongoing and will end before winter break.

The 6th grade math department has been an incredibly positive force in the roll-out of the math workshop model. To support this initiative, Mrs. Detweiler has been part of the implementation of learning stations and number talks. The learning stations have both enabled students to excel when they've mastered content and to spend extended time on concepts that need revisiting.

There has also been a push to provide a project based learning experience in pre-algebra. Students will apply their understanding of consumer applications to a project that requires them to research age appropriate jobs for middle and high school children and budget their time and pay in order to buy a chosen item. Students will also learn about income tax and how to calculate earnings.

7th and 8th grade also have sections of *genius hour* taking place in YJP. Genius hour is a concept derived from Google and 3M where employees are given twenty percent of their time to work on passion projects. During *genius hour* at Jefferson, students are given 2 hours a week to research passions that they don't get time to learn about in school. At the end of each session students present what they've learned to an audience of peers. Some genius hour projects include, learning to play the piano, photo composition, 3D printing design, python coding, Khan Academy courses, designing a zip-line, solving a rubix cube, carpentry, writing a children's book, and video editing.

Minority Achievement

Equity and Excellence

Arlington Chapter of the Links, Inc., Robotics Team

This is the fifth consecutive year the Arlington Chapter of the Links, Incorporated, has sponsored robotics teams at Jefferson to teach young ladies to build and program robots. Members of the teams attend a mentoring program sponsored by the chapter one Saturday of the month from 10:00 AM—12:00 PM.

Minority Achievement Continued

Coalition of 100 Black Women Mentoring Program

The Northern Virginia Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women sponsors a monthly mentoring program for middle school girls. The program is held one Saturday a month from 9:30 AM—12:00 PM at Thomas Jefferson Middle School (library). This year's theme is *Shaping and Inspiring Your Voice*.

Edu-Futuro Robotics Club

Edu-Futuro is partnering with Thomas Jefferson Middle School to sponsor a robotics club for the third year in a row. Students meet twice a week after school to learn how to build and program robots.

Gay-Straight Alliance

The Gay-Straight Alliance is a student club that works to improve school climate for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. GSA meets Thursdays from 2:30 PM—3:30 PM in room 206.

HILT Student Advisory Committee

The HILT Student Advisory Committee is working on developing a mentoring program that will pair students who are new to Jefferson with current students. Student mentors are being trained at this time.

Latinas Leading Tomorrow (LLT)

Latinas Leading Tomorrow (LLT) meets after school in room 260 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 2:30 PM—3:30 PM. LLT's mission is to empower Latinas as strong, successful leaders in their chosen path and in their community. Meetings focus on leadership skills, goal setting, career exploration, college prep, community service and pride in cultural heritage.

MiKiDo Martial Arts Class

MiKiDo Training Centers, Incorporated, sponsors a weekly martial arts class for Jefferson students. The class meets on Wednesdays from 2:30 PM—3:30 PM in room 122 and focuses on conflict resolution, positive choices and self-discipline.

Real Madrid After School Program

The Real Madrid Foundation continues to sponsor a weekly after school program designed to teach students soccer skills as well as character traits such as respect, integrity and responsibility. The program takes place on Mondays from 2:30 PM—4:00 PM.

A Message From Counseling



We are excited about the 2018-19 school year. Our Yellowjackets are diligently working to acquire new skills both in and out of the classroom. Whether it is joining an after-school club, playing a new sport or finally understanding how to convert proportions, TJMS is the place to make it happen.

It is important to us that our students have the opportunity to drive their own social-emotional learning. During the month of October, students completed a needs assessment which allows our department to have a better understanding of their needs. This year, survey results have suggested students would like to learn how to best manage stress. We will explore Mindfulness as a tool for decreasing anxiety and building protective behaviors that help students regulate mind and body.

8th graders participated in Signs of Suicide (S.O.S.) a depression awareness and suicide prevention program that encourages students to seek help if they are concerned about themselves or a friend. The acronym A.C.T. (Acknowledge-Care-Tell) is used to remind students to acknowledge there is a problem, show you care, and tell a trusted adult if they, or a friend, are in danger.



Finally, as we move through the 1st semester, 1st Quarter Report Cards will provide an overview of how well your child is progressing through a course. For students earning a D or below, grade level principals and school counselors are meeting with students to explore strategies for improving achievement. Please let us know if additional support is needed.

Our Counseling Staff:

Susan Holland: Director of Counseling
703-228-2907/ Susan.Holland@apsva.us

Amelia Black: 6th grade Counselor
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Erin Pennington: 8th grade Counselor
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Susan Russo: 7th grade Counselor
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News from the Library

Thousands of books are currently in circulation! Books check out for 3 weeks: please encourage your child to return overdue books as soon as possible. Students with overdue books must renew or return them (or pay for lost items) before they can check out additional books. Jefferson Library books have a due date sticker on the back and “Jefferson” stamped on the edges of the pages. Please make sure Jefferson books are returned to Jefferson Library and Arlington Public Library books are returned to the Arlington Public Library!

Orientation and classes. During the first couple of weeks of school, students all came to the Library for an orientation on using the Jefferson Library and its resources and began checking out books. We've had lots going on: 8th grade classes doing cultural geography research, reading classes coming in for checkouts and booktalks, and science fair research—we've just finished introducing the 7th grade teams to print materials and online databases (and how they can be accessed also at home using MackinVia—either on computers or iPads). 6th grade science classes will be in soon.

Technology

NoodleTools--Citation-maker. We have been showing students how to log in and use NoodleTools, an online bibliography citation maker that saves their bibliographies. All Arlington secondary schools use NoodleTools, so we have been making sure students know how to start using this subscription site that helps students easily and accurately create lists of all the sources they use for projects. Students can use it for their science fair research, which requires APA format. APS Information Services has just linked student NoodleTools accounts to their One Login accounts, and accessing it is much simpler now.

e-books and e-audiobooks. Students have access to Library resources 24/7. MackinVia (accessed through a computer or the app on their iPads) can be used to search online encyclopedias or databases for their research. And the MackinVia and Destiny Discover apps can be used on student devices to check-out, download, and read free e-books and e-audiobooks. Students have been introduced to these apps—if anyone has questions, please come see us right away!

Online library catalog. New this year--our library online catalog has a new look! Everyone with an iPad can access the library catalog using the Destiny Discover app. Students can see what books are available in the Jefferson Library before they come up to get them and check them out, put holds on books that are currently unavailable, and see what e-books and e-audiobooks can be checked out.

News from the Library

Flipster--Online magazines. Our other new excitement this year is Flipster! We are trying out a Jefferson subscription to online magazines. Users can checkout and download any of 25 different magazines (and back issues) to read on their devices. Some of the titles are more academic and can be used in their classes like Discover, Popular Science, Cobblestone, Dig, Faces, and Muse; other titles are just fun or to spark interests like J-14, Cool (in French), Girls' Life, Minecraft World, ESPN, Food Network Magazine, National Geographic Kids, Slam, Transworld Skateboarding, World Soccer, Girlfriend, and Justine.

Follow the steps below to get access:

- Download Flipster from the app catalog
- When you are prompted to find my library make sure you type Jefferson Middle and pick the one in Arlington, VA

User name: **jeffersonmiddle**

Password: **jefferson18!**

**** Don't forget to include the exclamation mark in your password

Library Canvas course. Our Jefferson Library Canvas course is up and running. We are still working to enroll students. Students who haven't enrolled yet can see us in the Library to enroll. We post announcements of Library activities and events, have research help, and some lists and links to help with what to read next.

TAB Club--Jefferson's Book Club

This year's TAB club is up and running. TAB is a book club Ms. Miller and Ms. Wall run with help from Mr. Nelson from Arlington Shirlington Library; we meet every 2 weeks during student lunches. We focus on books nominated to be this year's American Library Association best books for young adults. Students read, review, and discuss these books throughout the year; in the spring we will vote for Jefferson's top 10 TAB Picks list. It's not too late to join! We are trying to go as paperless as possible this year and run TAB through a Canvas course, so attendance sign-ins, information, and notices are accessed after students join the Classroom. Students should be writing short reviews of books they read—the link to fill out the Google Form review can be found in Canvas, too.

One annual activity is our All-TAB author visit. This spring, we will travel by bus to Kenmore to see an author (we are still getting confirmation as to who and when). We had a webcast featuring Alan Gratz, author of *Refugee* (last year's Jefferson Battle of the Books winner) October 19, and we have another webcast with 7th Grade TAB favorite Shannon Messenger (author of the Keeper of lost cities series). In addition, we are planning a Skype session with another author (still in the works). Arlington Public Library's Friends of the Library finances many of our events—when you buy books from the Public Library's used books sales, you help fund our author visits!

News from the Library

Library Activities and Events

We plan library activities and events throughout the year. In September, we posted photos submitted by students showing how they “Read Anywhere” over the summer. We also honored students who completed or participated in the Arlington Public Library Summer Reading Program this past summer. Students were given passes notifying them, and they came to the Library and received a small treat or a piece of cake.

We celebrated Teen Read Week October 9-12. This year’s theme was “It’s Written in the Stars...READ!” Students caught reading that week were given cards to bring to the Library for a treat, students decorated stars with the title of their favorite book, which were then displayed, and we had a read-in the final day after school.

We created Harry Potter Week November 13-16 to psych us all up for the theatre release of the “Fantastic beasts: the Crimes of Grindelwald.” We listened to Harry Potter audiobooks, played Harry Potter trivia and “Guess the Harry Potter voice” as created by narrator Jim Dale during that week’s TAB meetings, made wands and practiced our charms and spells, and played Harry Potter Trivial Pursuit. We definitely have some serious experts here at Jefferson!

We plan to have some sort of craft day in December.

Jefferson Book Fair: December 10-14

We are trying something new this year. We in the Library heard from many students who missed not having a book fair last year, so we decided we would try to help. We have scheduled a Book Fair to be in the Library Monday, December 10 to Friday, December 14. The Book Fair will be open 8:30am-3:30pm Monday-Friday, with evening hours before and after the Winter Orchestra Concert on Tuesday, December 11. The book fair is being hosted by Bedford Falls, a company new to us but that a number of APS schools have been happy with.