



# Thomas Jefferson Middle School

## IBMYP November Newsletter



### Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: INQUIRER

We want all our students to be **inquirers**. In our classrooms teachers and students work together to develop inquiry questions that are factual, conceptual and debatable in every unit. We use six global contexts to help guide student curiosity with questions such as: who are we? How is everything connected? What is the purpose of creative expression?



Our top student-selected inquirers are: **Dolphins - Beckett Hampton, Dragons - Carsten Polestak, Eagles - Ella Godbout, Gators - Phoebe Schaible, Monarch - Gloria Fosso, Owls - Fikir Reta, Penguins - Ava Fischer, Phoenix - Aurnab Barua, and Stingrays - Emma Abramson.** Source: [pixbay.com](http://pixbay.com)

### New IB Language Policy



Our Jefferson Language Policy is now final. Two key points: First, is that every teacher at Jefferson is a Language Teacher with a focus on communication skills. Second, is that we are a multilingual school as

a fact, right and resource. Our students speak more than 30 languages. Students who don't speak English at home are enrolled in HILT classes with support to help them succeed. They have a right to learn their mother tongue, English and another world language. We offer seven languages: American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, French, Latin, Spanish, and Spanish for Fluent Speakers. [Read the full policy here.](#) Source: [pixbay.com](http://pixbay.com)

### Investigating the Community Project

Students are coming up on the next stage of the the Community Project: the proposal for action. This means that our students need to ensure they have a highly challenging goal and plan specific times and places to take action on a community need they chose.



Furthermore, students have new resources to investigate community needs thanks to our Librarian, Ms. J Miller. She created a series of web collections on popular community needs that students want to address: including: Poverty, Animals, Socials Issues, and more. [Find out more here and photo source.](#)

### Global Events



About 21 Jefferson students spent their Saturday on November 17 at George Washington University as part of our Model UN Club sponsored by Ms. A Miller. She wrote that our students did a "Great job being positive risk-takers! Also Kritika Raiwas awarded a verbal commendation." Source: Photo by Mr. Malinosky.

### Written Curriculum

This month we want to highlight our Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) program created by Fountas & Pinnell and led in Jefferson by our Special Education and our Reading Strategies teachers. This is great program that helps all of our struggling students read at higher levels. Specifically, LLI is used with students who are reading at least two grade levels below their grade. It works by putting students into small groups (4-6 students) and having them read appropriate, high interest texts. There are a range of activities and lessons for students that include fluency instruction, systematic phonics, with high quality texts at a fast pace. Books and lessons are adapted for each reading grade level and color coded. This is a critical tool to help all students access our rigorous curriculum.

### MYP Classrooms & Authentic Assessments

The end of the first quarter means a blizzard of tests, projects and come due for students. These summative assessments are critical to understanding what our students have learned. But how do we know if our assessments are graded fairly? Teams of teachers meet together to internally standardize the grading process. The History 6 Team met to do exactly this. Teachers graded examples of high-level, mid-level, and low-level student essays. In every case, underlying assumptions were clarified and teachers reached near consensus on each grade based on the rubric. The Math 6 team used the same process to finalize grades on a test. Source: [pixbay.com](http://pixbay.com)



### Jefferson in the Community

Jefferson 8th graders had an action packed Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving with the Career Day and College Field Trip, respectively. On Career Day, our students heard from 28 people in the workforce from US Army Colonels to Chefs. Our students were also able to ask thoughtful questions about each of these varied careers. On Tuesday, we took the entire 8th grade to college. We went to nine colleges among the most popular were George Mason, Georgetown, and the University of Maryland. Students had the opportunity to experience what life in college could be like. [Photo source.](#)



### Upcoming dates/Service needs

- Every Wednesday Community Project help in the library
- Every Tuesday at 5pm volunteering at Phoenix Bikes to repair bikes, 909 S. Dinwiddie St ([full details here](#))
- Every Wednesday at 6:30pm volunteering at AFAC to bag chicken, 2708 S. Nelson St, ([full details here](#))
- Coordinating a Food Bus contact [Mr. Malinosky](#)
- [Service Learning Calendar is here](#)