



# Thomas Jefferson Middle School

## IBMYP January Newsletter

*Learning Together to understand and improve ourselves, our futures, and our world.*



### Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: REFLECTIVE

We want all of our students to be **reflective**. One of the keys to learning is regularly reflecting on what you have learned. At Jefferson our students are often asked to do this at the end of each class. Teachers are asked to reflect before, during and after teaching each unit. Furthermore whether in our personal or academic lives, being reflective helps us become better, more caring people. Our top student-selected reflective students are: **Dolphins - Landan Gallardo, Dragons-Sophia Voulgaris, Eagles-Ryan Phillips, Gators-Vivien Williams, Monarch-Olivia Bartrum, Owls-Maya Yilmaz, Penguins-Devyn Carlson, Phoenix-Amelia Sahm, and Stingrays-Jihan Matthews.** Source: [jeffersonIBMYP.com](http://jeffersonIBMYP.com)



### Written Curriculum

Language and literature (ELA) classes are beginning the new year with much nonfiction reading and writing. In MYP Yr 1, ELA, students have been completing a unit on persuasive writing. Specifically, students learned how to write persuasive essays--how to develop a claim about a character's traits in selected short stories and using evidence from those stories to support their claim. In Reading 6, students are reading various nonfiction texts to explore relevant concepts, including innovation, controversy, natural phenomenon, and persistence. They have also been learning about author's purpose, bias, and organizational patterns.

### Draft Inclusion Policy

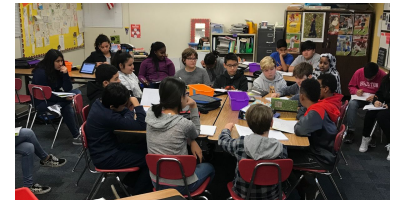


[We have a draft inclusion policy on the web.](#)

Our academic honesty policy only needed a couple tweaks, our language policy needed an overhaul, and our inclusion policy falls in the middle. We have made the philosophy and principles behind our inclusion policy very explicit and have kept the identification section largely the same. Next we will add a collaboration section for all to see how we make inclusive education work for all. At Jefferson every teacher is a teacher of all students. Teachers need to plan together utilizing inclusive strategies. We have now embedded these research based teaching strategy in our unit planner. Finally, we have added assessment section to ensure excellence and equity in grading. We welcome any feedback. Source: [pixbay.com](http://pixbay.com)

### MYP Classrooms & Authentic Assessments

Language and literature classes are delving into their activism unit. In a twist with traditional Socratic Seminars, ELA 7 had students work in partners to plan and lead the dialogue regarding whether Washington-Lee High School should change its name. Students really practiced being open-minded on a controversial topic. and listened to each other despite their disagreements as to whether Washington-Lee should change the name. At the end, students reflected on their performance - truly a great way to teach citizenship and communication skills. Photo By Mr. Malinosky



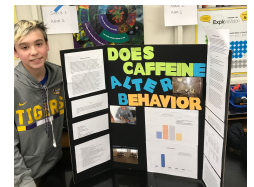
### Community Project Proposals for Action

January is often the toughest months for service organization. After the holidays people often don't have much to give. Jefferson students, however, are stepping up. Particularly with community projects, students are planning projects on bike donation, food drives for the homeless, painting murals on blank walls, raising awareness to stop coral bleaching, the dangers to bats, and dozens of additional topics. The key is that students are in charge of their learning. Now all 8th graders should be planning action. Source: [pixbay.com](http://pixbay.com)



### Jefferson Science Fair

If the future of the world is in the hands of Jefferson students, then there is no doubt that it is going to be a better place. Our students created science fair products ranging from the health effects of caffeine (gulp) on mice to the quality of local water sources based phosphorus and nitrogen content. Students showed they could create thoughtful hypotheses, choose independent variables and measure dependent variables. Students showed the judges (teachers) that they are budding young scientists and excellent communicators. Photo by Mr. Malinosky.



### National Geography Bee



Jefferson held the National Geography Bee on Jan 18. Seven finalists competed to be TJMS's champion. Students answered questions on jaguars of South America to the lakes of Russia, demonstrating impressive

international awareness. After 40 minutes of questions, Sassan Fiske won the competition. Now Sassan will compete in the state championship and Source: Photo by Mr. Malinosky.

### 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](#)

