



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IBMYP March Newsletter

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



Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: RISK-TAKERS

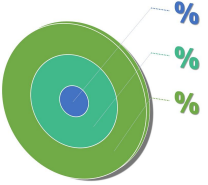
We want all of our students to be **risk-takers** and to approach uncertainty with an open mind and excitement. Taking risks is critical to innovation and success. One of the most common risks is public speaking. Our top student-selected risk-takers, however, are not intimidated: **Dolphins-Elena Rochard, Dragons-Freya Matthison, Eagles-Filimon Meaza, Gators-Jake Teter, Monarch-Demarco Teixeira, Owls-Dylan Tallis, Penguins-Sean Howder, Phoenix-Martha Whitney & Stingrays-Layla Eisenberg.** Source: [pixabay](https://pixabay.com/)



Written Curriculum

Our Language and literature year 3, otherwise known ELA 8 students just finished a Dystopian unit titled "What a Wonderful World. . .?" Students used Approaches to Learning Media Literacy skills to create a political advertisement using two propaganda techniques. Students read books like, *The Hunger Games*, *The Giver*, *Animal Farm* and *Fahrenheit 451* and many other engaging titles depending on their preference. Then students wrote an analytical essay on the characteristics of a Dystopian society. They explored and wrote about how societies can suppress and severely limit democracy and freedom.

Assessment Policy: Forming a Committee

 The Middle Years Program requires that grading be a **fair, consistent** and **transparent** process. There is much that we do well with assessment at TJMS: % of our teachers are using IB criteria for some assessments. There is, however, room for significant growth. By the time of our evaluation in the Fall of 2020, we need every teacher using IB criteria for every summative assessment, not grading homework or classwork and reporting final scores for each criterion for every subject by quarter. Ultimately, this is where we need to arrive. As we make this transition, there are many decisions we need to make. How do we make this work for everyone? How do we marry MYP and APS requirements? How do we report interims? If you are interested in joining an assessment committee email: [Kip Malinosky](mailto:Kip.Malinosky@tjms.org). Source: [pixabay](https://pixabay.com/)

Music Assessments

From Ms. *Tangchittsumran*: If you had never heard of Music Assessments before this month, I am sure you have heard of them by now! Every year, secondary band, orchestra, and choral programs attend a "District Assessment" performance that is like an SOL for music ensembles. We are in District 12 (which is made up of schools in Arlington and part of Fairfax County. This area is home to some of the highest quality music programs in the state and carries the weight of living up to incredibly rigorous expectations. For the second consecutive year, the TJMS Symphonic Band and Advanced Orchestra earned Superior Ratings overall. Photo by Mr. Malinosky.



Community Project Update

The Community Project Exhibition day is almost here, April 9. Ready or not, our 8th graders are going to be presenting to 6th and 7th graders as they visit the 8th grade TAs. As the 8th graders present about the community they investigated, their planning for action, the action they took and their reflections the 6th and 7th graders will grade them on an online IB rubric. Furthermore, the 6th and 7th grade teachers will also grade them using the complete IB project rubric, just as the Science Fair was graded. Exciting projects, like 8th graders reading to 2nd graders, are nearly complete. Photo by Mr. Malinosky.



MYP Classrooms & Authentic Assessments

Family and Consumer Science Design classes engaged in another authentic, delicious, and creative assessment: grilled cheese sandwiches. These, however, were not your typical grilled cheese sandwiches. Students created fried egg and bacon, apple, and mac and cheese grilled cheese sandwiches. Just like the pizzas created last semester, these grilled cheese sandwiches were delectable. To be precise, none scored below a 5 on the IB rubric and a couple reached the highest level. Administrators, counselors, and teachers all contributed to assessing the students' work.



International-Mindedness: Mardi Gras

 The IB Global Conference this summer is New Orleans, and Jefferson French classes made sure that we celebrated that city's favorite holiday, Mardi Gras, in style. Students created Mardi Gras masks, wore plenty of multicolored beads and ate Mardi Gras cakes. Then students marched in a little Mardi Gras parade down the hall to the front office sporting their masks. Our world languages/language acquisitions classes are not just about learning another language, but also celebrating other cultures. Photo by Mr. Malinosky.

Upcoming dates/Service needs

- Every Tuesday at 5pm volunteering at Phoenix Bikes to repair bikes, 909 S. Dinwiddie St ([full details here](#)).
- Every Wednesday Community Project help in the library
- Every Wednesday at 6:30pm volunteering at AFAC to bag chicken, 2708 S. Nelson St, ([full details here](#)).
- Every Friday, work community garden at TJ after school.
- [Service Learning Calendar is here](#)
- Stay tuned for upcoming school-wide activities.
- Student piano concert at Culpepper Gardens is looking for piano players to perform on April 5th and April 12.