



# Thomas Jefferson Middle School

## *IB MYP October Newsletter*

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



### Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: OPEN-MINDED

As IB learners we want to be **open-minded** by appreciating other cultures as well as our own. Being open-minded is both a reason for the creation of the IB and the hardest attribute to practice in these controversial times.



Our top open-minded students are for the **Dolphins - Eva Jaldin Torrico, Dragons - Dayana Castellon Sagastizado, Eagles - Scott Gowdy, Gators - Divora Tecle, Monarch - Fikreyesus Reta, Owl - Micah Manas, Penguins - Lilly Bui, Phoenix - Anya Dutta, and Stingrays - Alexa Bayer.**

Source: <https://pixabay.com/vectors/open-doors-open-exit-doorway-1518244/>

### Written Curriculum

Our math teachers across all grade levels are working to integrate the workshop model into their instruction. This is the idea that students should work at their own pace through multiple stations. Students have stations they must complete and others that they may complete. Teachers work collaboratively to create engaging stations that include math games and real world problems. These stations usually begin with a number-sense routine like "Which one doesn't belong?" or "Would you rather?" to get students thinking mathematically. Finally, all math workstations are designed to help students reach the highest levels of achievement on the summative assessment.

### An IB Policy explained: Assessment



Assessment practices at Thomas Jefferson are changing. Why? Not just because we have to, but because our grading practices should be consistent, transparent and fair. Right now we have a tremendous variety of grading practices in place. We want to

ensure the following principles are consistently in place:

- Assessments are authentic and rigorous
- Give meaningful, timely feedback on student learning
- Transfer skills across subject areas
- Foster a positive attitude toward learning
- Promote creative and critical thinking
- Set in a variety of cultural and linguistic contexts

Source: [pixabay.com](https://pixabay.com)

### MYP Classrooms & Authentic Assessments

Our 8th Grade Design Family and Consumer Sciences brought their A-game to the annual international pizza making competition in Ms. Boda's class. Our students brought their creative ideas, cooking and collaboration skills to the test. Administrators, counselors and IB coordinators were brought in to judge the pizzas.



And we have news: our students can cook! The pizzas were scored consistently well on the MYP criteria. And the students enjoyed demonstrating their new found knowledge and skills. Photo: Mr. Malinosky.

### Community Project

The first rotation of our Yellow Jacket Period (YJP) is now finishing and our first batch of community projects are unfolding. We have a parade of bake sales to support a multitude of causes from the homeless to animal shelters. Furthermore, we have bathrooms being painted with hopeful messages and a video game club to relieve stress. Next month, we will have 175 students begin their YJP rotation on the community project. We will likely have an even greater variety of community goals and needs being addressed. All resources are in the 8th Grade TA Canvas. Learn more here [Community Project](#). Source: [pixabay.com](https://pixabay.com)



### Service Learning

The Jefferson Community Garden club wrapped up the fall session this October with a celebration that included food they helped grow. Now the far majority of the food, however, was donated to AFAC, more than 490 lbs. Our Yellow Jackets helped plant and harvest the food along with guidance from Ms. Reidy Brown and Ms. Dunbar.



We also have a little seed library created by students at W-L attached to our Garden. And our next projects are expanding the compost and making the garden fully ADA accessible.

### Jefferson in the community

Throughout the month of October we held Back to School Night Basics every Wednesday for different parent groups. Ms. Smith led the way in coordinating the program with information presented and questions answered by Ms. Boggan. Food and entertainment was sometimes provided by our own Jefferson students. We held these nights in Spanish, Mongolian, Amharic, Arabic and Bengali.



### Upcoming dates/Service needs

- 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](#))
- Every Thursday join Mr. Malinosky for the Jefferson Environmental Club in room 264 right after school
- 8th graders finalize Community Project Goal.