



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IB MYP December Newsletter

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



Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: KNOWLEDGEABLE

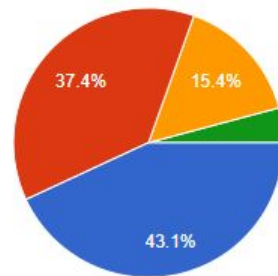
All learning involves exploring knowledge. We learn key concepts that apply across subjects. We engage with issues of both local and international importance.

Our top knowledgeable students are for the **Dolphins - Lizi Papinashvili, Dragons - Matthew Abramson, Eagles - Mariam McClure-Simonyan, Gators - Ryan Cohen, Monarch - Kennedi Carter, Owl - Alaina Setzo, Penguins - Kimber Shaw, Phoenix - Yassir Erami, and Stingrays - Charles Scott.** Source: pixbay.com



Self-Study and School Improvement

We are proceeding with our self-study for Jefferson's IB MYP evaluation. And we have good news: our students rate ourselves as "Excelling" or "Demonstrating" on a variety of IB MYP practices. Specifically, of 525 students surveyed, 80.5% agreed that teaching and learning engages them as thinkers and inquirers (pictured right: Blue = "Excelling," Red = "Demonstrating," Orange = "Developing, Green = "Emerging"). Teachers and parents are still to be surveyed.



Trainings on Assessment



We are moving forward with criteria based grading to ensure that our assessment practices are consistent, transparent and fair. In order to do this, we will need training for staff and information sessions for parents. Thus far, 5 teachers have been to MYP assessment training in Norfolk,

another went to an assessment training in Vancouver, 5 administrators and teachers are signed up for a training in South Carolina, and two more training sessions in Maryland will be offered in January. We will have a parent assessment workshop January 21, at 6pm in the Library. We aim to get all teachers a demo standards-based gradebook in the second semester.

Source:

twitter.com/MrsBennettELA/status/1174395416571535366?s=20

MYP Classrooms & Authentic Assessments

Our Language and literature year 3 teachers recently completed their unit on migration. Our 8th graders wrote and drew compelling and dramatic narratives about migration.

Students could choose to write a poem, a graphic novel, or write detailed captions for photos or write literary criticism about the literature they read and analyzed in class. Pictured above, one student chose to illustrate a story about a young family's harrowing migration to the United States. This project was assessed using Criterion A: Analyzing and Criterion C: Producing Text. Photo from Ms. Madhi's class.

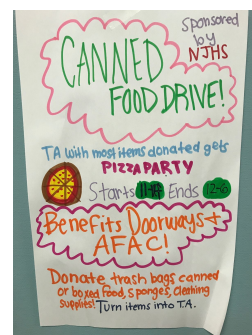


Community Project

We are finishing our second rotation of Community Project YJPs. By far, the most popular topic chosen was helping animals. We have students helping animals largely by holding bake sales to support shelters. Helping animals in Arlington, however, is not the only cause that our students have sought to take on. Students are focused on endangered species around the world from orangutans to red pandas. Our kids are raising awareness about the threats these animals face. Large groups of students also focused again on helping the homeless and mitigating global warming. Another group of students is focused on tutoring and we already have some our students tutoring at Fleet Elementary.

Service Learning

The NJHS held the annual canned food drive between November 22 and December 14. Students in all grade levels collected cans to be turned in to their TA teachers. The food donations are split between the Doorways for Women (Domestic violence shelter) and Arlington Food Assistance Center (food for needy families). Ten students, guided by Ms. Kramer helped gather all the donations.



Winter Assemblies

Our musical Arts students have been performing a series of holiday themed concerts. On December 11, we had a modified schedule in order for all students to hear the performances of our chorus, orchestra and band. On December 17, we had the Chorus Concert scheduled at 7pm, where students showcased their talents for the community. Source:



twitter.com/MrsBennettELA/status/1204928346506891265?s=20

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