



# Thomas Jefferson Middle School

## IB MYP September Newsletter

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



### Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: BALANCED

As IB learners we want all to be **balanced** academically, physically and emotionally. We aim to educate the whole child. Already several students show a great ability to balance their busy lives.



Our top balanced learners are for the **Dolphins - Bella Deflippi, Dragons - Emma Abramson, Eagles - Zosia Barry, Gators - Cheyenne Klapper, Monarch - Max Thompson, Owl - Hannah Nilame, Penguins - Jason Hernandez, Phoenix - Elaine Chu, and Stingrays - Emory Loughy.**

Source: <https://pixabay.com/en/sunset-mountain-balance-top-1757593/>

### Written Curriculum

Our Science classes, among others, are trying something new this year: fully aligning MYP assessment with our APS grading policy. We begin with backward planning the year with a range of summative assessments. Then backward planning the lessons from each unit's summative assessment(s).

In Sciences all content, skills and assessments are aligned with the following criteria: A-Knowing and Understanding, B-Inquiring and Designing, C-Processing and Evaluating, and D-Reflecting on the Impacts of Science. The idea is that by making grades based on known criteria, across grade levels, grading can become more consistent, transparent and fair for all.

### An IB Policy explained: Assessment



All IB schools have four required policies that should receive input from the whole school: [Academic Honesty](#), [Assessment](#), [Inclusion](#) and [Language](#). Every policy was reviewed or rewritten last year. The policy that needs the most attention is our assessment policy, which doesn't currently meet several MYP requirements.

Therefore, a committee of TJ staff will begin work this month on drafting a new policy to ensure our grading practices are consistent, transparent and fair. This process will take time, but we want our grades promote excellence and equity for all.

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

### MYP Classrooms & Authentic Assessments

Our 8th Grade performing Art students already have learned how to put on a show! Of course, they have much more work to do in honing their skills, but they are already demonstrating commitment, creativity and talent in pulling off their dancing and lip syncing performances. In three classes, five teams competed in front of four to five judges. Often the results were very, very close. The scores weren't announced until the end of each class.



This assessment was scored using the MYP Arts criteria of A-Knowing and Understanding and C-Thinking Creatively. It was an enjoyable challenge for every student. Photo: Mr. Malinosky.

### Community Project

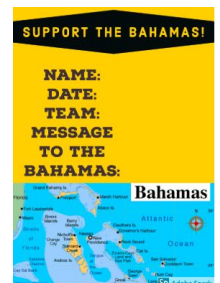
The Community Project, our capstone IB project, has launched for all 8th grade students. This year we will have students work in YJP to complete the investigating and planning phases of their Community Project.



Students will investigate, plan, take action and present on service they choose to complete. Students should have already chosen a community goal to focus on. The most popular chosen need is climate change. All resources are in the 8th Grade TA Canvas. Learn more about the [Community Project here](#). Source: [pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com)

### Global Events

After hurricane Dorian devastated the Bahamas, Jefferson students are stepping up to help. We are asking for donations to help the Bahamas during lunch sponsored by the SCA. The flyer on the right was designed by one of our students, Ayodeji Obikoya. All the money raised will be donated to the Red Cross of the Bahamas.



Furthermore we have several students from the Bahamas who are going to focus their Community Project on helping the islands.

### Jefferson in the community



All Jefferson students are expected to engage in service learning. For 6th and 7th grade students this means they need to choose two [areas of interest](#).

Students must participate in service learning hours in each area. Many service opportunities will be offered at Jefferson, such as working in the community garden, making donations or tutoring. More about [Service Learning here](#) Photo: Ms. Jenks.

### 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](#))
- Coordinating a Food Bus contact [Mr. Malinosky](#)
- 8th graders finalize Community Project Goal