



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IB MYP March Newsletter

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



Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: RISK-TAKER

Risk-taking is really important for learning. We must challenge ourselves to learn new skills that don't come naturally to us while being responsible.



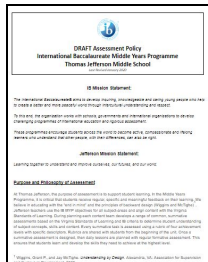
Our top risk-takers are for the **Dolphins - Jamie lazarte Jimenez, Dragons - Bella Handler, Eagles - Eyuel Berhanu, Gators - Divora Tecle, Monarch - Mae Seward, Owl - Leah Wargo, Penguins - Kennedy McCleary, Phoenix - Rizvan Tesfay, and Stingrays - Taylor Zimmerman.** Source: pixabay.com

Finishing Subject Overviews

IB in the middle years does not have a fully prescribed written curriculum like the Diploma Program in High School, but we do have a teacher created curriculum with Virginia standards and MYP concepts. This written curriculum is [posted online here](#).

Right now we have our Sciences, Math and Physical and Health Education subject overviews nearly complete from 6th grade to 8th grade. This written curriculum gives everyone an opportunity to see the concepts, global contexts, objectives, content and summative assessments that we have planned. We aim to have every subject overview complete by May. Then these will be living documents updated every month.

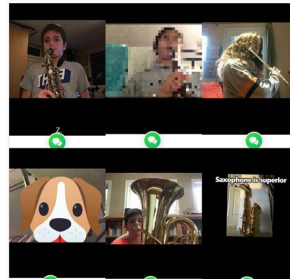
Assessment Policy and Proposal Approved



On March 24 our school leadership team approved both our Assessment Policy and Proposal. Both of these documents will now need to go to the PTA and School Board for approval as well. For the 2020 school year, we will be basing grades on IB MYP criteria rather percentages. Grades will only be based upon summative assessments that are linked

to task-specific rubrics. The report card will expand to report on scores 1-8 for each subject specific IB MYP standard (four for each subject area) and using the mean of those scores to determine the overall grade. This policy will ensure that students, teachers and parents have a reliable portrait of student achievement across every subject area. [Read the policy here](#).

MYP Classrooms & Authentic Assessments



In unprecedented and dangerous times with the spread of Covid-19, all learning has moved online. One remarkable example from the Performing Arts is Ms. Tangchittsumran's Band classes. She [wrote in a tweet](#), "The first week of Online Learning has been a challenge, but it has been great checking in with students via flipgrid! Nearly 250 videos and responses have been posted in one week!"

IB Schools around the world are adapting to online learning in these harrowing times. Read about a few stories from the [IBO here](#).

Community Project

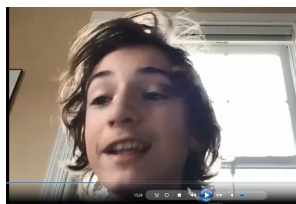
The IB MYP Community Project work and exhibition has been changed due to Covid-19. The presentation now will be due online June 10. Obviously, many of the projects that involved bake sales and collections will not be doable. There are, however, many actions we can take to help either our own community, New York City, Italy or any other place under severe hardship from Covid-19. From creating public service announcements about the importance of washing your hands ([my favorite is from Vietnam](#)), to learning a new craft or tackling another problem entirely and finding an online way to help a specific community. More suggestions and guidelines are to be [found here](#). Please let Mr. Malinosky or Ms. J. Miller know if you have questions.

Mount Vernon Field Trip

The entire 6th grade took a field trip to George Washington's home at Mount Vernon on March 10. Students got to see the quarters of the enslaved people who built and maintained the home, Washington's living quarters and his sweeping view of the majestic potomac. Students explored the grounds in small groups led by chaperones. They could ask park guides questions about how people lived in the 1790s and Washington's role in history. Photo by Mr. Malinosky.



Service Learning



The Jefferson Environmental Club continued to meet after school using video conferencing software. Students participated in the video chat to discuss the latest on the Covid-19 virus and long term

impacts of climate change. Then the club also reviewed books we could read together. We decided to read a book called "No Shortcuts" by Jane McAlevey about organizing for power so that we advocate for our world to be more sustainable.

Free Meals from APS for Kids

Free meals for kids 2-18 will be provided Monday-Friday beginning 3/16/2020, at the sites from 11:00am-1pm as follows: [\(See an interactive map here\)](#)

- Barrett Elementary School—4401 N Henderson Rd
- Campbell Elementary School—737 S Carlin Springs Rd
- Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School—3500 S. 23rd St
- Kenmore Middle School—200 S. Carlin Springs Road
- Randolph Elementary School—1306 S Quincy St
- Hoffman-Boston Elementary School — 1415 S. Queen St
- Key Elementary School — 2300 Key Blvd

