



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IB MYP April Newsletter

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



Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: COMMUNICATOR

Communicating is important as both a means and end of learning. Expressing ourselves confidently and creatively in multiple languages is critical to becoming a global citizen.



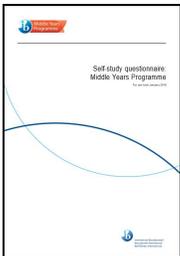
Our top communicators are for the **Dolphins - Maya Swanson, Dragons - Roayba Adhi, Eagles - Olivia Bartrum, Gators - Abeer Ishaq, Monarch - Eliana Lee, Owl - Issac Mandaville, Penguins - Abby Putnam, Phoenix - Astrid Brigham, and Stingrays - Sharon Cabrera Sanchez.** Source: pixabay.com

Subject Overviews - Language and Literature

Last month we described the written curriculum posted [online here](#) in our subject overviews. This month we delve into the Language and Literature subject overview. The purpose is to allow teachers to make connections between the subjects and plan interdisciplinary units.

Language and literature focuses heavily on the broad concepts of creativity and connections. It focuses in depth on the concepts of theme, structure and character among others. All six global contexts are explored, especially personal and cultural expression. Students really learn how to express themselves by creating their own narratives, poems and articles.

IB MYP Self-Study



Every five years, every IB school must complete a comprehensive self-study. This involves a thorough examination of a school's purpose, leadership, organization, teaching and learning and assessment. The self study should involve all stakeholders including students, teachers and community members. To that end, surveys were sent to all three groups to evaluate how

Jefferson is performing as a school. We could judge our status as an IB MYP school as "Emerging," "Developing," "Demonstrating" or "Excelling." By far the most common response was "Demonstrating" in response to a wide array of questions. The areas for greatest growth are differentiation and assessment.

MYP Classrooms & Authentic Assessments



For next school year's IB evaluation we must submit at least two examples of student work from every subject area assessed with an IB MYP rubric. This wonderful student drawing of a bird comes from one of Ms. Shepardson's 6th grade

students. The student had to demonstrate their knowledge of the drawing process. This work was assessed with the Criterion A which is "Knowing and Understanding" for the Arts. The task-specific clarification involved experimenting with charcoal, smudgers and erasers. Not surprisingly, this was 8 level work.

Community Project - Due June 10

Last month we suggested changes to the Community Project [posted here](#). This month Ms. Miller and Mr. Malinosky want to give some concrete examples of project students could do:

For those who wanted to do tutoring:

- Record themselves giving the lesson
- Document giving the lesson to a younger sibling.

Bringing awareness:

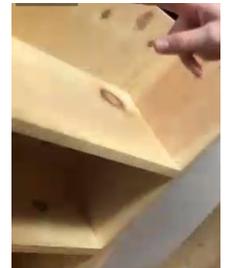
- Make a digital poster that we could post on in Canvas
- Video message about their issue
- Help set up a flipgrid so students could share ideas .

Painting Murals:

- Submit a drawing of what a mural would have looked like.
- Submit a picture of a poster to support frontline workers.

Seed Libraries Spread

A Washington-Liberty student last year came up with the idea for a seed library for her IB senior project. It was modeled on the little libraries for books that have popped up across Arlington, only plant seeds instead of books. She installed the seed library on the edge of Jefferson's Garden. Last year, only a few of the seed packets were exchanged or taken. Since the pandemic took hold, however, the seed library has become a hot commodity. The seeds were completely gone at one point, until Reidy Brown, the PTA Garden Lead, restocked it. Now TJ students, at least one, are building their own seed libraries as seen pictured above.



Service Learning



Ms. Boda's classes are completing an excellent service learning challenge that is open for all students: *Are you interested in encouraging someone, or helping in our community? Would you be willing to write a*

short note of encouragement to a senior citizen in Arlington? Many senior citizens live alone, and many do not have families nearby to reach out to them. Notes can be very simple, or even include a picture if you are inspired! Send notes to:

Senior Citizen PenPal, 2314 N Burlington St, Arlington, VA 22207

Free Meals from APS for Kids

Free meals for kids 2-18 will be provided Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 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