



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

Sept. 8-18 IB Curriculum - Grade 6

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



Student Services Update

We are excited about the start of the 2020-21 school year and everything sixth grade has in store. Our Yellowjackets are diligently working to acquire new skills while learning ways to strengthen their social-emotional and self-management abilities as middle schoolers. Social-Emotional Learning teaches students how to understand/manage emotions, set positive goals and express empathy for others. Each Monday during TA, students will complete lessons designed to take them through steps to increase their capacity for establishing and maintaining positive relationships with all members of our TJMS community. Whether it is joining an after-school club, meeting a new friend or developing their critical thinking skills, TJMS is the place to make it happen! Click the link below for contact information and office hours for our school counselors, psychologist and social worker along with important announcements:

[TJMS Student Services Newsbites](#)

Updates/Reminders

Parent/Guardian Canvas accounts are available that allow you to:



- See every course their child is enrolled in
- See all content in the course, including their child's submissions, grades*, and feedback for any assignments graded in Canvas
- Adjust their notifications and frequency communicate with teachers via the Inbox

[More info and tutorial here.](#)

Arts

In 6th grade band students are working on instrument placements and music reading skills. In 6th grade chorus students are working on assessing their voice parts, solfege hand signs and note names on the staff. In 6th grade drama, students are working to develop their creativity and build confidence in presenting their ideas.

Art class has always been a very hands on experience, so it is quite an adjustment to transition to virtual art. We have started off by making portraits from objects found around the home; and we are perfecting our photography skills so that we can document our work. We are also exploring digital art through the Autodesk Sketchbook app.

Design



In Technology Education, students are working on board drafting. This traditional technique allows us to invent and innovate using the design process later in the semester. We will explore drafting each letter neatly and cleanly on a blueprint and work on orthographic, 3 view and isometric drawings.

FACS students are learning about personal development, communication skills, and setting goals using the design process.

Individuals and Societies

In US History, students are learning that they can analyze and interpret geographic information to determine patterns and trends in US History. Students' understanding will be demonstrated by defining and interpreting key geographic features on a quiz. We will explore questions like "Where did history happen?" In class, we are engaged in the following learning activities: vocabulary activities, note-taking skills and Nearpod for geography and map skills.

Language Acquisition

In Intro to French, students are learning how to describe ourselves and others. Students' understanding will be demonstrated by **listening and reading comprehension at the end of the month.** We will explore questions like **What do I and others look like and what is my personality?** In class, we are engaged in the following learning activities creating and reading simple stories.

Language and Literature

In ELA 6, students and teachers are working together to become a community of readers and writers by creating slides and writing short compositions to introduce themselves. Students also took the Reading Inventory assessment last week. In the next few classes, students will be setting up writing notebooks and learning how writers use sensory images to write about "small moments" as we work up to our personal narrative unit.

In Reading, students are learning that critical readers make purposeful connections to the world around them through their reading. Students' understanding will be demonstrated by a **reading self-assessment by October 2.** We will explore questions like: how can I effectively comprehend texts? In class, we are engaged in the following learning activities: creating notebook pages and Onething summarizing activity.

Math



In Math 6, students are learning that **integers are whole numbers and their opposites.** Students' understanding will be demonstrated by **using two color counters and number lines by October.** We will explore questions: **is zero an integer, why or why not are fractions integers?** In class, we are engaged in the following learning activities: **DESMOS interactive activity, number sense routines, and class discussions on real life scenarios involving integers.**

Math Inventory will begin Sept. 27th.

Physical and Health Education

This week the physical education department is focusing on a couple of different units depending on the teacher. Mr. Curran's, Mr. Stith's, Mr. Rodriguez's and Ms. Patterson's classes are currently teaching Physical Education and focusing on fitness. Each class period students are participating in a variety of workout activities as well as learning about the different fitness concepts, health and skill related components, and fitness planning. Mr. Heath's and Ms. Pierces' classes are starting their first week of a 3-week Health rotation. Their classes are starting a mental and social health unit. This unit is focusing on ensuring students are taking care of themselves mentally and socially during this virtual teaching environment.

If you have any questions specific towards an individual teacher, please use email or questions can be answered at office hours on Monday's from 9:30- 10:30. All contact information can be found on each teacher's canvas homepage.

From the Library:

Ms. J Miller, Ms. Wall, and Ms. Rosegrant have begun going into classes for orientations. It's great to see everyone in their classes! Students have learned how to access our online library catalog, Destiny Discover, and all our library apps to find books and magazines to read and listen to. Check out our Library Canvas course for more information (look in the Orientation module). In addition to digital books, we are starting to make our physical books available to students, too. Students learned how to put a hold on a book and that they need to wait for a Canvas message from Ms. Rosegrant saying that their book is ready for pick-up from the Jefferson bus loop (pick-up times: Tuesday 11am-1pm and Thursday 3-4pm). Books will not be ready until they get a message (even if Destiny Discover says it is)!

Sciences



In Science 6, students are learning that collecting evidence and observing patterns can help us construct systems to explain how the world works. Students'

understanding will be demonstrated by a Unit Test, Candy Experiment, Penny Lab and a Science Article in mid-October. In class students are engaged in the following learning activities: writing hypotheses, distinguishing between control and variable group and interpreting data to find patterns.

Reminders

As a reminder, we are still trying to get back books checked out from last year--both from Jefferson and from our now-6th graders' elementary schools. Families are strongly encouraged to bring them back to the Jefferson bus loop during book pick-up times on Tuesday/Thursday or to Jefferson during lunch pick-ups on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.

If you have any questions about books (this year or last) or using our library resources, please send us a Canvas message or email us.

Photos source: www.pixbay.com