



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

September 8-18 Curriculum - Grade 7

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



Student Services Updates

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 7th grade band students are reviewing music reading/notation and instrument care & maintenance habits. In 7th 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 FACs, students are learning that collaboration with their family and community is the path toward sustainability and independence. Students' understanding will be demonstrated by **using the Design process to plan and implement a Smart Goal relating to contributing to their family.**

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.

Individuals and Societies

In US History, students are learning that **Civic action and protest can lead to awareness and change about injustice. The Civil War divided and damaged the nation, but ultimately preserved the Union and its people.** Students' understanding will be demonstrated by **completing Hyperdocs, Learning Blocks, Nearpods, and Discussion Questions. The summative assignments will be an Investigative Board so that students can select how to best demonstrate their understanding.** We will explore questions like **How do people make their voices heard to bring about change? What were the social, economic, and political differences between the North and South?**

Language Acquisition

In 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?** In class, we are engaged in the following learning activities creating and reading simple stories.

Language and Literature

In ELA 7, students and teachers have been working together these first few weeks to build a community of readers and writers in this new virtual environment. Students have used flipgrid to share about themselves and get to know each other. Students have also taken the reading inventory assessment. Our next unit will begin on September 22. Unit 1 is titled Reading Like a Writer; we will be using the book *Clean Getaway* to explore themes of identity. More information can be found on Canvas.

Math

In Math 7, students are learning that solving mathematical puzzles require logic and may use approximation to determine equivalence. Students' understanding will be demonstrated by a unit test.

In Pre-Algebra, students are learning that logic can be used to identify integer relationships and justify this reasoning with models of integer relationships. Students' understanding will be demonstrated by a unit test.

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



Grade Life Science - An interesting start to our school year indeed. After a few days of working out the "bugs", all 7th grade science teachers have begun our first unit on Experimental Design. This piggybacks on the 6th grade

experimental design unit and helps our students with a deeper understanding of how to navigate a successful and valid scientific experiment. This unit will last 2 - 3 weeks with our first IB assessment given at the end of September.

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