



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

October 9 IB 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](#)



Resources for Gifted:

If your child was identified as gifted in elementary school, that identification carries over to middle school and they will receive gifted services in the appropriate cluster classes. All students identified as gifted in a core subject area receive services through the cluster model. The cluster model is an inclusive method of providing challenging opportunities for gifted students within the general education setting. This means that a cluster class has five-ten other students identified as gifted, along with general education students. This allows for the teacher to efficiently plan for differentiation and flexible grouping depending on the abilities and readiness of everyone in the class.

Contact Megan Detweiler with further questions - megan.detweiler@apsva.us

Arts

In Concert Band students are playing out of "Tradition of Excellence: Book 1." Symphonic Band students are playing out of "Tradition of Excellence: Book 2" and have started learning "Seven Nation Army."

In 7th Grade Orchestra, students are reviewing technique, rhythms, note reading and playing orchestra pieces.

In 7th grade Chorus students are combining their knowledge of rhythm and pitch to improve their music reading skills.

In 7th grade Drama students will begin a new unit this week. They will be introduced to Radio dramas and begin the process of creating their own.

In 7th grade Visual Arts students have been making matchbox art. They are telling a story with color, shape, words and images in a small container.

Design

In Design FACS, students are evaluating their living environments, and designing & organizing their personal space.

In Computer Science, Students are solving programming challenges by applying computational thinking and algorithmic procedures. Students develop solutions by breaking instructions into specific, sequential steps that a computer can follow.

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.

In Digital Input Technology, students will use the internet to do research on different technologies. They will have to use a variety of sources (news articles, blog posts, etc.) to do the research; they will need at least 2 sources for each technology.

Individuals and Societies (Social Studies)



In US History, students are learning that **Amendments and laws can be passed to protect the rights of people, but attitudes cannot be legislated.** Students' understanding will be demonstrated by **completing Hyperdocs, Learning Blocks, Nearpods, and Discussion**

Questions. The summative assignments will be an **Acrostic Poem** so that students can tell the story of Reconstruction in a creative way that allows them to demonstrate their understanding. Students will also take a short **Unit Test** We will explore questions like **Was Reconstruction a success? What does it mean to be a citizen? Did amending the Constitution right the wrongs of slavery?** We will focus on the Constitution in our next unit.

Language Acquisition (World Languages)

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.

In all of the Spanish classes, we are having a fabulous time celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by learning about various Hispanics who have lived or live in the US and around the World and who have made an important contribution to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States! We have learned about Frida Kahlo and how despite her illness as a child and her bus accident as an adult, causing her great physical pain, she was able to overcome major obstacles and become a prominent artist influencing millions of people in Mexico and around the world. We also are learning about Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and her contribution to the highest court of the land! In Spanish 8, students will be able to: Talk about pastimes, weekend activities, and sports.

Language and Literature

In ELA 7, students are examining common fiction texts to learn how authors use creativity to develop characters and setting. Students are exploring conceptual questions like: **How do family dynamics play a role in characters' identities, and in our own identities?** and **How can we prevent injustices from repeating as is seen in the texts we are studying?** Students will be creating identity maps for themselves, and exploring the identities of the characters texts including *Clean Getaway*. Students are also learning how to craft short-answer responses to questions about texts, and will use their skills in class discussions as well as written responses.

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 will solve practical problems involving 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional objects. Students' understanding will be demonstrated by a unit test at the end of October.

Physical and Health Education

The Jefferson Health & Physical Education Department is finishing up a 3-week rotation this week. Mr. Heath's and Ms. Pierce's classes will be switching from Health to Physical Education. Mr. Rodriguez's and Mr. Stith's class will start health next week on Tuesday. Mr. Curran's and Ms. Patterson's classes will continue with their Physical Education lessons for the next 3 weeks. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher. If your child has any questions for their Health & Physical education teacher, they may ask questions during office hours on Mondays from 9:30 to 10:30.

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.

Sciences

We have made it into our second month of distance learning 😊 and have successfully finished our first unit on Experimental Design. An IB summative was given to all students with results being posted in ParentVue. Please remember to check in ParentVue (not canvas) for student grades and also note grading period 1 ends on Nov 2nd.

All 7th grade Life Science science students are beginning our second unit on Ecology. Our Statement of Inquiry is: **Energy and balanced interdependent relationships determine sustainability and health within a system.** During this unit we will emphasize the importance of interrelationships between plants and animals and how humans are impacting this balance. Our IB summative will center on the cause & effects of overpopulation of white tail deer and what can be done to address it. In addition, this unit encompasses many state standards so we will be studying Ecology well into the next grading period. Please feel free to email your child's teacher with any questions that might arise.

From the Library:

- Read our weekly Library Buzz Newsletter in Canvas!
- Please continue to read our digital books, audiobooks, and magazines and to put holds on print books (to pick up in the bus loop on Tuesday/Thursday).
- Please continue to return books checked out from last year--both from Jefferson and from our now-6th graders' elementary schools. Bring them back to the Jefferson bus loop during book pick-up times on during lunch pick-ups on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.
- TAB Club has started and will continue every 2 weeks. We meet on Thursdays during lunches. It's not too late to join--Canvas message us!
- If you have any questions about anything, please send Ms. J Miller, Ms. Wall, or Ms. Rosegrant a Canvas message or email us.

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.](#)