



# Thomas Jefferson Middle School

## IBMYP February Newsletter

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



### Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: THINKER

We want all of our students to be **thinkers**. Author Dan Willingham wrote, "Memory is the residue of thought." For students to learn, they must think creatively or critically about the material they are learning about. We try to regularly use learning activities and assessments that allow students to act as thinkers. Our top student-selected top thinkers are: **Dolphins-Nora Mallet, Dragons-Nour Ben Hammouda, Eagles-Dhruva Barua, Gators-Chris Hunter, Monarch-Diana Rojas, Owls-Frances Shapiro, Penguins-Sean Memon, Phoenix-Bronwen Kubiack & Stingrays-Katherine Velasco.** Source: [pixbay](#)



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### Written Curriculum

In Individuals and societies, our World Geography students are completing a problem based learning IB unit on conflict and resolution. Students collaboratively analyze a current global conflict around the world and propose a solution. They followed inquiries into the themes that define conflicts and why conflicts happen. After completing their investigations, our Geography students poured into the hallways to propose detailed solutions in the form of a podcast to some of the world's most intractable conflicts, (Afghanistan, North Korea, etc). Our students are imagining a better world one conflict at a time.

### Assessment Policy: Essential Agreements



The IB has four required policies: 1) Academic Honesty, 2) Language, 3) Inclusion, and 4) Assessment. The first three have all been reviewed and updated this year. Now it's time to begin tackling the assessment policy. The Middle Years Program requires that grading becomes a **fair, consistent** and **transparent** process. This means that grades must be based on specific subject criteria, rather than amorphous categories of homework, projects, quizzes and tests. Furthermore, assessment should give students feedback on the learning process, though not penalize them while they are learning new concepts and content. Please let Mr. Malinosky know if you would like to be part of a committee to write a new assessment policy with these ideas. Source: [pixbay](#)

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### MYP Classrooms & Authentic Assessments

Individuals and societies and Language and literatures classes hosted a Civics Town-hall on February 4. County Board Members Christian Dorsey and Erik Gutshall and School Board Members Tannia Talento and Monique O'Grady joined the entire 7th grade to discuss local issues ranging from the new Amazon HQ to math Dreambox. Students had spent the month prior writing letters to their local elected officials. And Jefferson students asked incisive, inquiring questions. The School Board members certainly drew more questions than the County Board. Our 7th graders really got a chance to exercise their rights as citizens and see a little democracy in action. Photo by Ms. Nolan.



### Community Project Update

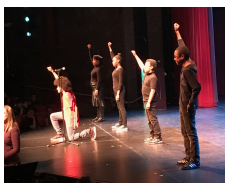
The moment of truth is rapidly approaching for the Community Project. It is due April 9. Our 8th graders will present to the 6th and 7th graders on that day about the goal they chose to address a community need. Now is the time for students to be taking the direct action through service, researching, informing on raising awareness about critical issues. Once students have finished their taking action component, they should be working on their presentation. What did they learn in pursuing a challenging goal to help a specific community? We want the lessons learned to be widely shared. Source: [pixbay](#)



### Developing an Action Plan

The IB action plan is an essential tool for ongoing school improvement. At Jefferson, we developed our last Action Plan four years ago after our last IB Evaluation visit. We are focusing on the five areas of recommendations: 1) Community Project awareness, 2) Planning the use and implementation of Approaches to Learning skills, 3) Strengthen the MYP Planning Process, in use of all six Global Contexts, 4) Unit plans and subject overviews must include key concepts, 5) Service learning should be aligned with concepts service outcomes. 6) Global issues connected to unit planners 7) Global contexts for Inquiry 8) Consistently using MYP assessment criteria. Please let Mr. Malinosky know if there additional areas of concern.

### Black History Month Assembly



Jefferson had an amazing Black History Month Assembly on February 13, around the theme of Migration. The Chorus kicked it off by singing the Black National Anthem. Every student on the stage shared their stories of migration. The beautiful poetry of Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston was recited. A professional singer brought the song "Summertime" to life in the dead of winter. And students gave a tribute to Colin Kaepernick by standing up to injustice, by kneeling down. It was a tour-de-force. Photo by Mr. Malinosky.

### Upcoming dates/Service needs

- Every Wednesday Community Project help in the library
- Every Tuesday at 5pm volunteering at Phoenix Bikes to repair bikes, 909 S. Dinwiddie St ([full details here](#))
- Every Wednesday at 6:30pm volunteering at AFAC to bag chicken, 2708 S. Nelson St, ([full details here](#))
- [Service Learning Calendar is here](#)
- Stay tuned for upcoming school-wide activities