



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IB MYP February Newsletter

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



Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: THINKER

Thinking is at the heat of learning. It includes both critical and creative skills. We must take the initiative in making reasoned and ethical decisions.



Our top thinkers are for the **Dolphins - Henry Gould, Dragons - Lyndon Thing, Eagles - Elizabeth Kisor, Gators - Daniel Meyer, Monarch - Eliana Lee, Owl - Rowan Blackwell, Penguins - Scarlett Carrasco, Phoenix - Jason Doll, and Stingrays - Micah Bierman.** Source: pixbay.com

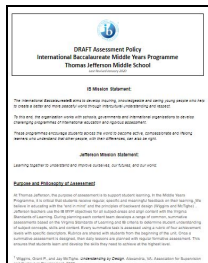
Academic Honesty to Academic Integrity

Last month we highlighted the new document "What is An IB Education?" This month we are highlighting the new [Academic Integrity guide](#) from IBO. This documents layout the expectations for school leadership, teachers, students, parents and guardians. Academic integrity is integral in building trust. The key points are as follows:



- produce authentic and genuine work
- attribute sources, acknowledging the work and ideas of others
- use information technology and social media responsibly.

DRAFT Assessment Policy



After more than a year of meetings, professional development sessions, and three drafts our assessment policy is almost finished. Almost. We are still making revisions. We are open to feedback from the entire community. Email Mr. Malinosky with any ideas. This policy includes the purpose and principles of MYP assessment. Grades are determined by the mean of final achievement scores (1-8) in all four criteria for each subject area. The scores within each criterion are not averaged, but use the mode or latest score. We are hoping to approve the policy both by our leadership team and the PTA by the end of March. [To read the policy click here.](#)

MYP Classrooms & Authentic Assessments



The 12th Semiannual Lip Sync battle was held this month in Ms. Riley's Drama classes. Students had to show off their communicating and creative thinking skills. And our students delivered. Middle School is a time of great creativity and our Yellow Jackets did not disappoint. We had performances to Shakira, the Jackson 5, two Beyonce songs among many other artists. Sitting in judgement were administrators, counselors and coordinators. One team that took first place in 3rd period, performed to Miley Cyrus's "Party in the USA." They crushed it, despite having one of their team members absent.

Community Project

We are starting our fourth rotation of Community Project YJPs. The climate crisis is rising in student interest. The globe is now becoming a common community of choice. Students are interested in painting murals to raise awareness about the crisis, hosting bake sales to support groups working on the frontlines and writing to elected officials. Homelessness again is one of our top issues. Students are being challenged to go beyond bake sales, to create projects that will strike at homelessness at a systems level. There are cities, like Salt Lake, that have virtually eliminated homelessneses. Students are investigating communities around the world to see how we can improve our own community.

Black History Month Assembly

Led by Ms. Samuels, Ms. Smith, Ms. Holland and Dr. Woody-Pope our Yellow Jackets put on a show to celebrate the centuries long struggle for the right to vote. Our chorus students sung the black national anthem. We had an amazing drum performance, student poems about voting, dance performances, videos and a great song about peace and love.



<https://twitter.com/JeffersonIBMYP/status/1218171316068589574?s=20>

Service Learning

The Jefferson Environmental Club won an award from Eco-Arlington on Saturday for having the most students of any middle school help pick up trash on Feb 1. Ironically, the Four Mile Run stream clean-up had to be delayed a week because of a septic leak in the stream the week before. Still TJ did more than its part to keep Arlington beautiful!



Upcoming dates/Service needs

- 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](#))
- Every Thursday join Mr. Malinosky for the Jefferson Environmental Club in room 264 right after school