



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

September 8-18 Curriculum - Grade 8

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 8th grade Band students are reviewing music reading/notation and instrument care & maintenance habits.

In 8th grade Chorus students are working on assessing their voice parts, solfege hand signs and note names on the staff.

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.

In 6th grade Drama, students are working to develop their creativity and build confidence in presenting their ideas.

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 (Social Studies)

In World Geography, students are learning that individuals orient and identify themselves with their neighborhood, community, city, state, country, or world by using varied perspectives. Students' understanding will be demonstrated by creating a global grid. We will explore questions like How might a person's identity and perspective influence their understanding of their place in the world? Our current unit of study covers the Introduction to World Geography. In class, we are engaged in learning activities like the Global Grid, Five Themes of Geography, Learning the Parts of a Map, the Arlington VLOG Project and so much more!

Language Acquisition (World Languages)

In French II, students are learning that individuals have feelings and their own likes and dislikes. Students' understanding will be demonstrated by **Reading and Listening comprehension** at the end of the month. We are getting to know each other and reacquainting ourselves with listening and reading French 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!

Language and Literature

In ELA 8, students and teachers have been working to build a community of readers and writers in a virtual environment. Students have created virtual corkboards about themselves, started reading about current events, and begun their first writing assignment introducing themselves to their teacher in a letter. Students will take the reading inventory assessment on September 22 and 23. Students will enter into their first unit, Mythology, on September 24.

Math

In Pre-Algebra, students are working with 3D figures and investigating Surface Area and Volume. Students' understanding will be demonstrated by a unit test.

In Algebra and Intensified Algebra, students are beginning the year with investigation of surface area and volume of 3D solid figures in addition to learning about probability. Students will be assessed at the end of the unit through a unit assessment.

In Geometry, students are continuing their algebraic journey from last year by learning operations and factoring of polynomials. They are investigating patterns and demonstrating their knowledge and discoveries with both Criterion A and B assessments.

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. Pierce's classes 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, students are learning that communities must change how they generate and consume forms of energy to conserve natural resources and be sustainable. Students' understanding will be demonstrated by performance on

the Winds of Change Assessment (Criterion D) in early October. We will explore questions like: What everyday examples of energy transformations are all around you? and Which energy resources are sustainable for Virginia?

In class, we are engaged in using simulations and models to observe energy transformations. Through synchronous and asynchronous learning activities, students will use a variety of speaking techniques to communicate with a wide variety of audiences.

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.pixabay.com