

Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IB MYP October 2020 Newsletter

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



IB Learner Profile Explained

The IB Learner Profile represents the IB Mission in action. It is composed of 10 attributes: balanced, open-minded, principled, inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, caring, risk-takers, reflective and communicators. Each month will spotlight a different attribute. This month we are focused on being balanced.



In our Teacher Advisory lessons we are working to help students create schedules to balance screen time, reading, exercise and time for play.

IB MYP Remote Visit in October

On October 15-16 we will have our evaluation visit from an IB MYP site team. Two IB educators will be virtually visiting our school. The purpose of the visit is to ensure that we are implementing the IB MYP with fidelity at Thomas Jefferson. They will interview teachers, administrators, families, students and board members to make determinations about our work with the MYP. The evaluators will determine whether we receive commendations, recommendations or matters to be addressed regarding IB standards and practices. This is meant to be a reflective process that helps ensure school growth.

IB MYP Policies Explained



All IB schools have four required policies that should receive input from the whole school: Academic Integrity/Honesty,
Assessment, Inclusion and Language. Every policy was reviewed or rewritten last year.
The policy that needs the most attention is our assessment policy, which needs revising

in order to meet several MYP requirements.

This month we updated both our assessment and academic integrity/honesty policy. Both policies needed adjustments to meet the new reality of virtual learning.

Source: pixbav.com

MYP Concepts and Global Contexts

Teaching through concepts and global contexts is critical to helping students learn. We teach through concepts to promote the breadth and depth of learning. If students connect facts and figures to big



ideas, they are more likely to remember their learning, and apply it in different contexts. In every subject area and every grade level teachers are expected to teach using concepts and in global contexts. The concepts answer what students are learning at a high level and contexts answer the why. What global, national or local issues may the concepts and content connect with.

Assessment Maps



Teachers are asked to map their summative assessments for the year using IB MYP criteria. This allows us to ensure that every IB objective and strand is assessed twice

during the year. It also ensures that teachers are able to plan lessons with the end in mind to help students achieve at the highest level. We have last year's <u>complete assessment maps posted here</u>.

Approaches to Learning Skills

In order for students to succeed on summative assessments they must learn specific skills across subject-areas. In IB, these

Approaches to Learning Categories	MYP ATL skill clusters
Communication	I. Communication
Social	II. Collaboration
Self-management	III. Organization
	IV. Affective
	V. Reflective
Research	VI. Information literacy
	VII. Media literacy
Thinking	VIII. Critical thinking
	IX. Creative thinking
	X. Transfer

are called the Approaches to Learning skills (ATLs). The ATLs are divided into 5 categories and 10 clusters from communication to thinking skills. We ask teachers to decide what skills they need to explicitly teach for each unit's summative assessments. We have last year's <u>ATL chart here</u>.

Community Project

The Community Project, our capstone IB project, has virtually launched for all 8th grade students. This year we will have students work in TA and in any subject area that connects with student interests to complete the investigating phase of their Community Project.

Students will investigate, plan, take action and present on a project they choose to help a community. Students should have already chosen a community goal to focus on. The most popular chosen need is climate change. All resources are in the 8th Grade TA Canvas. Learn more about the Community Project here. Source: pixbay.com

Service Learning

In these times of Covid-19, service-learning is more important and more difficult than ever before. People, animals and even ecosystems all need help. We ask that students try to take on tasks where they can take action virtually. This might include tutoring young kids online, making public



service announcements about the importance of wearing masks or writing to their elected officials. Hopefully there will be a time throughout the year in every subject area where service learning occurs.