



# Thomas Jefferson Middle School

## October 9 IB Curriculum - Grade 6

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



### Student Services Update

October is *National Bullying Prevention Month*. Thomas Jefferson has a zero tolerance for bullying in all forms (physical, verbal, relational and cyber) and through the use of classroom counseling and social-emotional learning, we are teaching students how to develop advocacy skills.

Currently, students are exploring ways to demonstrate compassion for themselves and others through confidently and creatively expressing ideas and information that build a greater understanding of our diverse school community. We also encourage students to connect with school staff when they, or their classmates, need help: As an IB school, we are all here to ensure Thomas Jefferson Yellowjackets are balanced, caring and reflective learners. [TJMS Student Services Newsbites](#)

### Gifted Service

**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](mailto:megan.detweiler@apsva.us)

### Arts



In 6th grade Band, students are learning how to set up, care for, and make sounds on their instruments.

In 6th grade Chorus students are combining their new knowledge of rhythm and pitch to improve their music reading skills.

In 6th 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 6th grade Visual Arts students have been familiarizing themselves with Autodesk Sketchbook for the past two weeks.

### Design

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 Design FACS, students have been evaluating what makes a good friend, and how to resolve conflicts in relationships.

In Design technology, students are working on "All about Me Presentations" using Google Slides. Students will use their own experiences to create a unique Google Slides presentation that will introduce them to the basic functions of Slides including slide transitions, changing backgrounds, inserting pictures and adjusting layouts.

### Individuals and Societies (Social Studies)



In US History, students are researching America's indigenous people to find out how they adapted to their environments. Students' research skills will be developed in an exploration of early indigenous cultures. We will explore questions like

"How did/does the environment affect the choices people make to survive?" In class, we are engaged in reading, writing notes and citing sources. We will also start our inquiry into Exploration.

### Language Acquisition (World Languages)

In **Intro to 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 and what is my personality?** In class, we are 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 6th grade, we are mostly getting to know each other while playing simple games and dancing. We will learn the alphabet, numbers, colors, the weather, and simple greetings.

### Language and Literature

In ELA 6, students are learning that **the events in our lives shape our perspective of the world, and how our self image and perception of the world is shaped by the stories that we tell ourselves and others.** Students are analyzing mentor texts to learn how to write effective personal narratives centering on an experience with food. Students are reading texts by authors from diverse perspectives and cultures, as well as previous students' examples. Next, students will begin writing their own food narratives.

In Reading, students have set reading goals and we are moving into our new unit, where students will learn that **characters' identities change throughout a story as they face conflict and challenges.** Students' understanding will be demonstrated by creating notebook pages, analyzing characters in fiction books and short stories, and checking our knowledge of the elements of fiction in an end-of-unit test.

### 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.

### 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.

### Math



In Math 6, students are developing conceptual and algorithmic understanding of operations with integers. Students' understanding will be demonstrated by **using two color counters and number lines to add and subtract integers.** We will explore questions: **How can we model addition and subtraction of integers? How can we model multiplication and division of integers?** In class, we are engaged in the following learning activities: **DESMOS interactive activity, number sense routines, class discussions on real life scenarios involving integers and using integers to solve practical problems.**

### Sciences



In Science 6, students are learning that collecting evidence and observing patterns can help us construct systems to explain how the world works. Students'

understanding will be demonstrated by a Unit Test, Candy Experiment, Penny Lab and a Science Article in mid-October In class students are engaged in the following learning activities: writing hypotheses, distinguishing between control and variable group and interpreting data to find patterns.

### 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.](#)