



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

October 9 IB 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](#)



Gifted Services

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

Arts

In 8th grade Orchestra, students are playing a variety of music including scales, solo and orchestra repertoire. Students are submitting video and audio samples for feedback on their progress and using software to play along with orchestra tracks.

In 8th grade Band students are playing out of "Tradition of Excellence: Book 2" and have started learning "Seven Nation Army."

In 8th grade Chorus students are combining their knowledge of rhythm and pitch to improve their music reading skills.

In 8th 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 8th grade Visual Arts students have been making matchbox art. They are telling a story with color, shape, words and images in a small container.

Design



In Design FACS, students are evaluating their living environments, and designing & organizing their personal space.

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 Robotics, students completed a summative assessment on our first unit, Exploring Robotics. Students described a selected technology using the Universal Systems Model. Students determined if technologies were examples of automation or robotics based on defined criteria.

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 participating in the completion of many different region based activities. Our current unit of study covers the US & Canada Region. We will explore questions like "How might a person's identity and perspective influence their understanding of their place in the world?" "Human Achievement is often but not exclusively connected to natural resources. Which has a greater impact on the US & Canada's development, physical or cultural characteristics?" In class, we are engaged in learning activities like the Regional Tour Builder, Regional Mapping Lab, Indigenous Peoples HyperDoc, the Monuments Project and so much more!

Language Acquisition (World Languages)

In **French II**, students are learning about Café vocabulary and how to express likes / dislikes. We read an article about a food distribution center in Marseille which has served people experiencing poverty during the COVID-19 crisis.

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 are learning that **myths are a genre that cultures use to make meaning of the human experience, and they help us better understand the world we live in and connect us across cultures.** As students study mythology through anchor texts including *Loki's Wolves*, they will work to write their own myths by either inventing their own hero and exploring their journey, or modernizing an existing myth for contemporary readers. Students are also practicing grammar with weekly assignments in No Red Ink, and responding to nonfiction texts with articles of the week.

Math

Pre-Algebra 8: We are finishing our 3D Solid figures unit within the next 2 weeks. Our summative assessment will be the week of the 19th of October.

Algebra & Intensified Algebra: We have finished Unit 0 over 3D Solid Figures and Probability. We are starting Unit 1 over Algebraic Expressions and Laws of Exponents the week of October 12.

Int Geometry: Students will begin our Logic and Intro to Geometry unit by investigating the laws of logic and key geometry vocabulary.

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.

Sciences

In Science, students are learning about temperature and heat. They will be exploring the following questions: What is the difference between heat and temperature?, How do we measure thermal energy? and How does thermal energy move and change? Students will show their understanding through an assessment (Criterion C) where they will observe an experiment conducted by their teachers, analyze data, and draw conclusions about which material is the best insulator for a cup of hot chocolate.

In class, we are engaged in using simulations and models to observe temperature and heat. Through synchronous and asynchronous learning activities, students will think critically by drawing conclusions from graphs, data tables, and simulations by looking for trends. We will use video clips and science articles to teach students how to analyze data and draw conclusions from experiments.

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.

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.](#)