



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

December IB Curriculum - Grade 6

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

Student Services Update

This month 6th graders have learned how developing a *Growth Mindset* enables them to practice risk-taking skills. When students create new approaches to learning they allow their brains to build new connections. Our Counseling Lesson focused on

Organization and brought together strategies for creating an orderly work space, weekly Study Plan and shared APS approved apps to reinforce content skills. Students were reminded that on Mondays, each teacher offers weekly office hours for reteaching and questioning.

[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

Arts



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

In 6th Grade Orchestra, students are learning to play a variety of solo pieces.

We are also learning to read and play various rhythms, notation and dynamics. We continue to develop our bow arm and left hand technique in order to play with a smooth, full tone.

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 Art, students have been working on one point perspective. This has been a challenging unit at times, but most seem to have mastered the process.

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, 3D view and isometric drawings.

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.

In Design FACS, students are finishing up their Thanksgiving Project. Over the break they learned to cook a favorite family recipe with a family member, and made a Google Slides presentation with pictures of what they did.

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.

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.

Language and Literature



In ELA 6, students are learning the connection between character development and human nature. Students are reading multiple short stories and creating claims about the characters, then choosing one character to analyze in a persuasive

literary essay.

In Reading, students are learning that **readers of nonfiction compare perspectives across texts to find common themes about how people interact, react, and adapt to their world.** Students' understanding will be demonstrated by creating a presentation using Google Slides. There will also be a Nonfiction elements end-of-unit test.

Math

In Math 6, students will understand that using reasoning and logic, students will identify fractional relationships and justify with models. Students' understanding will be demonstrated by **using reasoning**

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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.**

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' 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. 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 AM.

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 AM. All contact information can be found on each teacher's canvas homepage.

Sciences



In Science 6, students are learning that understanding of our universe has changed over time through innovation, discovery, and the development of models to represent phenomena.

Students' understanding will be demonstrated by a Unit Test. In class students are engaged in the following learning activities: writing hypotheses, distinguishing between control and variable group and interpreting data to find patterns.

From the Library:

The library has been teaching monthly digital citizenship lessons during TA. This month's lesson reviews the library skills we taught during library orientation at the beginning of the year. We want to make sure every student knows how to access and use our digital resources over break.

Reminders:

- Read our weekly Library Buzz Newsletter in Canvas!
- Students have access to our great collection of digital books, audiobooks, and magazines and can put holds on print books (to pick up in the bus loop on Monday/Thursday).
- Please **return library books** checked out last year--we are still missing a lot of books. Return them to Jefferson during office hours.
- **TAB Club** continues to meet in Canvas during Thursday lunches every 2 weeks. 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.](#)