



# Thomas Jefferson Middle School

## December Curriculum - Grade 7

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](#)



### Resources for Gifted:

**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 7th grade Concert Band students are working on progressive "Band Karate" checkoffs using the SmartMusic Notation Software. Symphonic Band students are using SoundTrap, an online digital audio workstation, to compose, record, edit, and mix musical performances. Symphonic Band students must submit a recording of "Seven Nation Army" by 12/18.

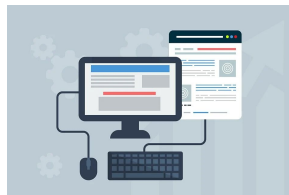
In 7th grade Orchestra, students are playing scales in a variety of rhythms, solo pieces of their choice and orchestra repertoire. We are preparing some Holiday Music to share with families. Students are also using Smart Music Software to play along with recorded tracks.

In 7th grade Chorus, students are working on submitting their recordings of "Let It Snow." They have the choice to record on Flipgrid or Garageband.

In 7th 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 7th 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 Computer Science, students are using block coding to code animations and interactive games. Students develop skills with basic

programming skills like, variables, loops, and conditional statements.

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 Digital Input Technology, students will use the internet to do research on different technologies. They will have to use a variety of sources (news articles, blog posts, etc.) to do the research; they will need at least 2 sources for each technology.

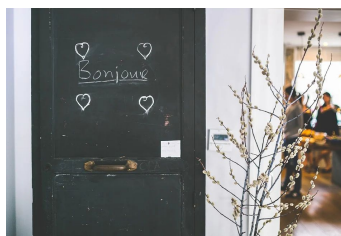
### Individuals and Societies (Social Studies)



In US History, students are learning about the Foundations of Government and how flexible systems protect the rights of the people. Students wrote editorials that spoke about the importance of flexible systems and detailed what system they thought best

protected the rights of the people. Students used current events to breathe life into their scenarios and really embraced the task with passion. We then moved onto how immigration led to an expansion of citizenship. Students will demonstrate understanding of the Expanding Nation by completing Investigation Boards. After the Winter Break, we will explore Industrialization and try to decide whether the Industrialists were Captains of Industry or Robber Barons.

### Language Acquisition (World Languages)



In 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?** In class, we are engaged in the following learning activities creating and reading simple stories.

In Spanish Class students are learning that Daily connections and patterns add meaning to life.

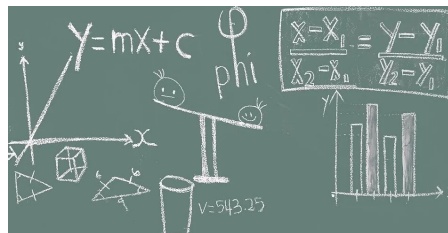
## Language and Literature



In ELA 7, students are examining how their identities and groups shape their experiences with the world. Students are learning to develop strong claims, support those claims with

evidence and ultimately write to advocate for change in their communities. Students are reading articles in their areas of interest and exam

## Math



In Math 7, students are learning that solving mathematical puzzles require logic and may use approximation to determine equivalence.

Students' understanding will be demonstrated by a unit test.

In Pre-Algebra, students will solve practical problems involving 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional objects. Students' understanding will be demonstrated by a 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' 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

All 7th grade Life Science science students are beginning our second unit on Ecology. Our Statement of Inquiry is: **Energy and balanced interdependent relationships determine sustainability and health within a system.** During this unit we will emphasize the importance of interrelationships between plants and animals and how humans are impacting this balance. Our IB summative will center on the cause & effects of overpopulation of white tail deer and what can be done to address it. In addition, this unit encompasses many state standards so we will be studying Ecology well into January. Please feel free to email your child's teacher with any questions that might arise.

## 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.](#)