



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

February Curriculum - Grade 7

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



Student Services Updates

During Academic Planning for next year, students are inquiring about opportunities for 8th Grade and beyond. Please contact Ms. Burton if you have any questions about this important process.



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](#)

Return to School Information

TJMS Return to School (RTS) Town Hall Meeting

This Live Event will take place Tuesday, March 2nd at 7:00 PM. [Questions about "RTS"? – please complete this google form.](#)

Please mark your calendars to join us. Please use this link to attend the meeting on March 2nd at 7:00 PM: [TJMS Return-to-School Town Hall](#)

Hybrid/In-Person Model Return Dates:

- Grade 6: Week of March 9
- Secondary Special Education: Week of March 9
- Grades 7-8: Week of March 16

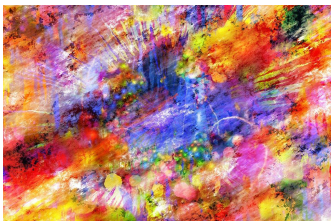
[Link to the Middle School Hybrid/In Person Information Page](#)

Arts

In Concert Band, students are working on differentiated and progressive "Band Karate" checkoffs using the SmartMusic Notation Software. All 7th grade students are also using the SoundTrap Digital Audio Workstation to compose and remix music. They are also learning how to play "Blinding Lights" for our next recording project.

In Orchestra, students are playing scales in a variety of rhythms, solo pieces of their choice and orchestra repertoire. We are preparing two new orchestra pieces with Canvas and SmartMusic. We are learning lots of musical vocabulary and how to plan ahead before we play to ensure success. In February, students wrote and edited slides about Black Composers for Their Black History Month Virtual Museum.

In Chorus, students are working on recording the Civil Rights Era song "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around." In addition, students are participating in the South Arlington Choral Pyramid Project. Students will contribute to a virtual performance with Wakefield choral students and other elementary middle schools in the Wakefield pyramid.



In Drama, students began their drama class developing their creativity. We just completed our first project. All the kids made iMovie trailers. Ask your student to show their iMovie trailer.

In Arts, the new semester brings new students. We are starting off with a unit that doesn't require any extra materials. Students are learning to photograph their work, and assembling found object art. They are modifying this in the Digital art app Autodesk Sketchbook, and practicing giving each other feedback. This gives students plenty of time to pick up the art packet from school (Monday -Friday 7:30 to 3:30). They will need it soon!

Design

In Computer Science, students are demonstrating proper syntax and formatting in the Python programming language. Students are using Python functions to perform calculations and generate random numbers.



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 Digital Input Technologies, students are working on "Internet Scavenger Hunts: where the students will use clues given to them to find various answers around the internet. They will work on search skills, putting technical terms into their own words, and manipulating multimedia layouts.

In Teen Living, students have completed a Babysitting Basics unit. We will finish the semester by learning how to shop and care for our clothes, and complete a textile design project.

Individuals and Societies (Social Studies)

Students are learning that **the early decades of the Twentieth Century brought great change to the United States**. Students' understanding will be demonstrated through the use of a Choice Board so that students can explore an area of interest to them and decide upon the product they would like to create to demonstrate their understanding. Students will be exploring the causes and effects of World War I and what changes the Roaring Twenties brought to the US. Students will read short text pieces, view a variety of videos, and analyze primary sources to expand their knowledge.

Language Acquisition (World Languages)

In French I and French I Intensified classes, students are learning how to communicate about school. We are reading prominent individuals from Benin.

In Latin I/Intensified, students are discussing the role of slavery and freedpeople in Roman society. They are also working on writing their own stories in Latin.

Language and Literature

In **English**, students are learning that **poets use words with a purpose**. Students' understanding will be demonstrated by **analyzing poems for figurative language and word choice**. Students will be exploring what makes poetry effective and evocative **as they read poems by various authors and create their own poetry**.

Math



In Math 7, students are working through Two-Step Inequalities. Next week they will be working on Functions and Linear Equations. There will be a unit test in Canvas.

Physical and Health Education

In physical education students are working on fitness plans and workout routines focusing on the different health related components of fitness: cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance and flexibility. Nutrition will be the next health unit on the Health Physical Education rotation.

Sciences

In Science 7, students are working through units on the cell and cell processes. Students will understand that cells exhibit forms and specialized functions through inquiry into how humans use their understanding of scientific models. They will explore questions like Why are models necessary? And there will be a summative assessment on creating a cell city model.

From the Library:

The Library has been preparing for our **2021 Battle of the Books**. Throughout March in TAs, students will learn about 16 fantastic books and vote for their favorites.

- Read our weekly Library Buzz Newsletter in Canvas! Here's the link to our [February 22, 2021, issue](#).
- If you have any questions please send Ms. J Miller, Ms. Wall, or Ms. Rosegrant a Canvas message or email us!
- TAB Club has virtual author visits scheduled on March 15 at 11am and March 22 at 1pm. Check in Canvas for more information.

Return to School information:

- All students will continue to search and put holds on books through Destiny Discover. Library staff will deliver books to students' classes or have books available for pickup throughout the day for distance learners.
- TAB Club will likely change meeting days to Mondays to handle concurrent learning.

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.](#)