



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

February Curriculum - Grade 8

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 9th grade and beyond. This Spring, Ms. Black will hold classroom meetings to help students build their 9-12 High School Plan using Naviance. Please contact Ms. Black 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

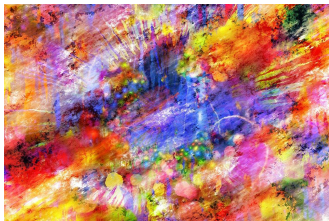
[Link to the Middle School Hybrid/In Person Information Page](#)

Arts

In Chorus Band, 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 solo and ensemble pieces, a variety of scales, advanced bow technique, sound production and reading skills. We are working on orchestra repertoire with Canvas and SmartMusic. Students are encouraged to use musical vocabulary to reflect on and improve their playing in their IB MYP Process Journals. Students also wrote about and listened to Black Composers as part of our Virtual Composers 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 Robotics, students are developing algorithms for virtual robots to solve challenges. After developing a solution, students are writing code to control the robots, using loops, variables 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, 3 view and isometric drawings.



In Computer Applications and the Internet, 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 Life Management, students explored the many ways technology has changed our food system, including 3D food printing, and food waste reduction apps. Our final unit will involve a textile design project.

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 Sub-Saharan Africa Region. Students will locate and analyze physical, economic, and cultural characteristics of the Sub-Saharan Africa Region and will learn the past and present trends in human migration and cultural interactions as they are influenced by social, economic, political, and environmental factors. In class, we are engaged in learning activities like the Regional HyperDoc, Regional Mapping Lab, Mapping Activities and so much more! Additionally, students will be spending time on developing their essay submissions for our Localized Shared Writing Assessment, which will take the familiar form of a Document Based Question (DBQ). Students will engage in this assessment using skills and content knowledge that they have gained during the school year in World Geography and apply gained knowledge to this assessment. The World Geography part of the assessment will then be used to assist in the writing of a full five paragraph essay in their Language Arts class; thereby completing the DBQ process.

Language Acquisition (World Languages)

In French 2 class, students are learning to communicate in the past tense. We have been exploring famous individuals in Benin.

Latin II students are learning about the Roman province of Britain, and the lives of enslaved people there. They have started research projects on a topic of their choice. We are also learning to use infinitives in Latin.



Language and Literature



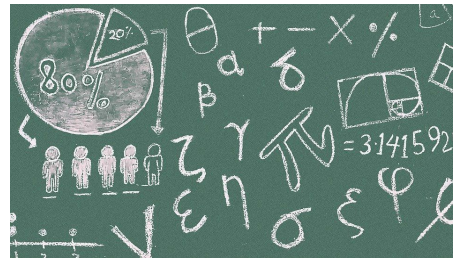
In English, students are learning that people migrate for a variety of reasons, and communication about these journeys enhances our understanding of others. Students will be exploring

fiction texts to better understand the push and pull forces that cause families to move from place to place.

Students are engaging in novel study which will culminate in a creative representation of the novel's themes in photography, art, or music. Students will also be working toward an interdisciplinary writing piece with World Geography.

Math

Pre-Algebra 8: Students are working on completing linear equations and graphing lines on the coordinate plane.



Algebra & Intensified Algebra: Students are working on Linear Inequalities and Systems of Inequalities. Next students will be working on radicals.

Int Geometry: Students will work on right triangles and trigonometry.

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

Students are learning, *How do atoms make new molecules? Why do chemical equations have to be balanced?*

Students' understanding will be demonstrated by completing the summative assessment centered around the explosion in Beirut and the chemistry surrounding that next Tuesday and Wednesday (March 2nd & 3rd). The next unit will be Electricity in which students will explore insulators and conductors of electricity, static electricity, circuits, magnets, electromagnets, motors, and generators.

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.](#)