



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

February Curriculum - Grade 6

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



Student Services Updates

6th grade is blooming! Students have completed course requests for 7th grade, and we are preparing to begin their next phase of planning. Each year students participate in *Academic Planning* which is the process of outlining courses and potential credits over the next 4-6 years. I will work with students to develop a personal academic plan that outlines coursework from 6th-8th grade. While each students' academic plan is unique to their own interests, it is a fluid plan that will be monitored and adjusted each year. Encouraging students to observe their own learning often leads to meeting high school graduation requirements. This process not only allows school counselors to help the student and family determine an optimal academic plan for achieving rigorous graduation requirements, but often prepares each student for a successful route to college or the necessary certification/training for workforce readiness.



[TJMS Student Services Newsbites](#)

Gifted Information Update

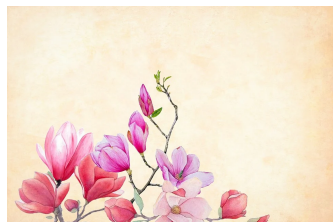
It is gifted identification season in APS. Teachers and parents can refer students for gifted services through April 16th. If you would like more information about the referral process, please see this [FAQ](#). The referral form is available on our [website](#). All referrals and questions should be directed to Megan Detweiler megan.detweiler@apsva.us. It should be noted that if your child has been previously identified as gifted, they have been receiving differentiated instruction through the cluster model. No further action is needed from parents.

Student Engagement - At Home Conversations

As parents we are constantly asking our children, "What did you learn today?" The answer we get from middle schoolers is probably "nothing," or, if we're lucky, one or two words - the Constitution, graphs, electricity. To engage your child in conversation, try asking them the positive, negative and interesting aspects of what they are learning. What is positive about electricity? What is negative about electricity? Is there anything interesting that stands out to you on this topic? This strategy works with all subjects and guides our children in exploring that one-word answer with more depth and ownership.

Arts

In band, students are working on differentiated and progressive "Band Karate" checkoffs using the SmartMusic Notation Software. Advanced students are beginning to select solos to perform. They are also starting to learn how to play "Blinding Lights" just for fun!



In Orchestra, students are making excellent progress with a variety of solo pieces. We continue to develop our reading skills and technique in order to play with a smooth, full tone. Music vocabulary is emphasized at all times. Students are writing

IBMY Process Journals to develop their independent practice skills and music vocabulary.

In Chorus, students have submitted their recordings for the South Arlington Choral Pyramid Project. We are starting new music for the spring and focusing on music literacy.

In Drama, students finished their 1st unit with a performance of an original poem. We will now begin our study of Radio Dramas. We will rehearse and perform a Radio Drama. Look out for the recording!

In Arts, we have just finished up our Matchbox Art unit. Students made or found a small box and decorated the inside, outside and added contents to fit a chosen theme. They worked in small groups to give each other feedback. Next up: Drawing.

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, 3 view and isometric drawings.

In Design technology, 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 Design FACS, students have been learning how to choose healthy foods for nutrition and wellness. Students are learning to make a favorite family recipe at home as part of our TJMS Family Cooking Showdown Contest!

Individuals and Societies (Social Studies)

In **History**, students are beginning their final unit: Turning Points and the Emergence of Modern America. We will explore both World Wars, Cold War, Great Depression, Harlem Renaissance, Civil Rights Movement, Globalization and current issues. We will continue to develop map skills, inquiry skills and connecting events through time and place. Our inquiry questions will include: Why did we fight and what did we gain? and What was life like?

Language Acquisition (World Languages)

Introduction to French students continue being comfortable hearing and using basic French statements. We are laughing, singing, and reading short stories.

Intro to Latin students are learning about the early history of Rome, and making comparisons to modern America. We are also practicing our Latin vocabulary through online games.

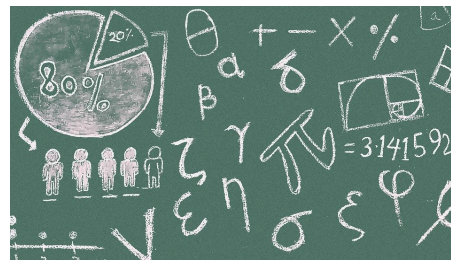
Intro to Spanish students are becoming more comfortable reading for comprehension short stories in Spanish. They love stories related to animals. They love to listen to music in Spanish and even dance!

Language and Literature

In **Reading**, students are learning that readers analyze character relationships and their broader connection to group relationships in society in order to develop an awareness of social issues. Students are exploring fiction and nonfiction books that connect with real world issues, and are participating in weekly book discussions.

In **English**, students are wrapping up the Children's fiction unit and are also in the midst of the 100 day writing challenge. From March 1- June 8, every student must participate at one of the levels: Required, Reward, or Centurion. Families, ask your students about this exciting activity. Students, challenge yourself to write every day!

Math



In Math 6, students are working to understand that Using reasoning and logic, students will identify and justify ratios and proportional reasoning with

representations. They will have an upcoming summative test on ratios and proportions.

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, 6th graders concluded a brief unit on Chemistry. After Spring Break, we will begin exploring Weather! This unit is focused on characteristics of the atmosphere and other factors that influence the weather as we experience it on Earth.

From the Library:

Students voted throughout March in our **2021 Battle of the Books**. The Championship Match between *Black brother, black brother* and *When stars are scattered* is March 26. Students learned in TA about all 16 books in our March Madness--all books are available in print and as ebook/audiobook. Check them out through [our Destiny Discover collection!](#)

- Read our weekly Library Buzz Newsletter in Canvas! Here's the link to our [March 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 met virtually in March with the authors of *Suffragist* *playbook* and *Twins!*

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.
- Next TAB Club meeting: Monday, April 5th during lunches.

Learner Profile and Service Learning Update



The Learner Profile is the mission of the IB in action, to educate for a better world. We want all students to practice the traits as lifelong learners: Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Open-minded, Caring, Risk-takers, Thinkers, Communicators, Balanced, Principled and Reflective.

To this end we are excited to have a Learner Profile Excellence and service contest where students create a poem, essay, story or graphic about it. The contest is hosted by the IB Mid-Atlantic with a \$500 prize for the winner. As long as students submit their work by April 15th at 5pm in TA Grade Level Canvas, they'll have a chance to win.

Finally, we have an updated Academic Integrity policy in which we describe how we want all students and staff to be principled learners. We have added a rights and responsibilities section for staff, students, families. [Learn more about it here.](#)