



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

February Curriculum - Grade 7

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



Student Services Updates

Monday Social Emotional Learning lessons have focused on values and relationships and return next month to Mindfulness. Now that students have completed Course Requests for next year, we will be looking at how we can reach our goals and make our last quarter of the year our strongest!



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](#)

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

7th grade Concert Band students are working on differentiated and progressive "Band Karate" checkoffs using the SmartMusic Notation Software. 7th Grade Symphonic band students are learning how to play "Blinding Lights" and "The Mandalorian." The video for our Combined APS Middle School Bands "Seven Nation Army" performance premiered on March 5 for Music in Our Schools Month and was featured during the School Board Meeting on March 18. [The video can be viewed using this link](#). 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. We are preparing for a virtual spring recital with FlipGrid.

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

Students are demonstrating proper syntax and formatting in the Python programming language. Students are controlling program flow with conditional statements and boolean operators.

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, we are wrapping up our Nutrition and Wellness unit, and students are designing a healthy meal to make for their family at home: Tik Tok Tortillas with at least four food groups!

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.

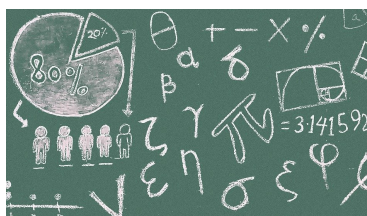
In Latin I/Intensified, students are discussing the role of slavery and freedpeople in Roman society. They are also working on writing their own stories in Latin.

In Spanish 1 and Spanish 1 intensified classes, the students are learning about their favorite hobbies and pastimes. Furthermore, the students are currently reading a chapter book about a Mexican legend called Popocateptl & Itzacuatl.

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. Mr. Curran's and Ms. Patterson's classes will be starting Health after Spring Break. Mr. Stith's classes will be in Physical Education.

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:

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.](#)