GETTING READY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL:

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I stay organized?

It is a good idea to get in the habit of writing down all of your assignments every day and keeping up a system for organizing your homework/ classwork for each subject. Your TA will help you to get organized and teach strategies for staying organized throughout the year.

How much homework will I have?

For Grades 6-8, students should expect a maximum of 20 minutes of homework per class (for a total of about an hour and half each night) plus 30 minutes reading each night.

How do I find out what school supplies I need?

https://jefferson.apsva.us/school-supply-list/

When will I know about the bus?

If you live beyond 1.5 miles walking distance from school, you will be provided bus transportation. Transportation information is provided in mid to late August / posted in ParentVue under the "Student Info" tab.

More information can be found here:
https://www.apsva.us/transportation-services/bus-transportation/

How much time do I have in between classes? What if I'm late?

Students have 3 minutes in between classes. Because most of your classes are in the same hallway, this is usually more than enough time. As long as you are doing your best to get to class on time you will not get in trouble for being late!

What do I do if I get lost?

There will always be a lot of adults close by to ask for help. We will spend time at the beginning of the year making sure you know how to get to your classes.

Many of you will have your History, English, Reading and Science right next to each other in your Team's hallway.

What are Teams?/ When will I know what Team I am on?/ How are Teams determined?

There are 3 Sixth Grade Teams: the Dolphins, the Owls and the Stingrays. These teams will each have a little more than 100 students. A team of teachers work together on this team so you will get to know the teachers and students in your team well.

We try to balance the teams so there are approximately the same number of students on each team. We also try to make sure that students will have students who went to the same elementary school on their team so that there are some familiar faces!

You will get a letter the week before school starts that tells you which Team you are on and who your TA is. You will start your day with your TA who will give you your schedule, give you a tour of the school and make sure you know everything you need to know!

What is TA?

TA stands for Teacher Advisory. There are usually only about 12-16 students in your TA. TA is like your homeroom, but you only have it for about 30 minutes each day. (In the beginning of the year, you will have a longer time in TA so you can go over everything you need to know.) In TA you will have some structured lessons about our IB (International Baccalaureate) Program, Social Emotional Learning lessons, check-ins on grades and relationship-building activities to get to know the other students in your TA.

What is ACT II?

ACT II is what we call classes that are offered after school. You earn a grade in these classes and attendance is taken. We usually offer Chorus, Drama, Technology Education and Computers after school, but it could change every semester. Students will get information about these classes a few weeks after the school year starts.

How do I find out what sports, clubs and activities there are? How do I join?

Parents and students can find all of this information in the Activities tab on our website: https://jefferson.apsva.us/. We also share this information on announcements posted on our webpage. Mr. Siegel, our Activities Coordinator, will provide information at lunch and reminders on morning and afternoon

announcements. These will begin after the school year starts and instructions for how to sign up will be shared at that time.

MIDDLE SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC TEAM SPORTS

Cheerleading	**Co-ed Swimming (No Cut)**	**Basketball**
Soccer	**Ultimate Frisbee (No Cut)**	**Track (No Cut)**
Co-ed Wrestling (No Cut)	**Co-ed Tennis**	**Co-ed Diving**

What will the schedule be like?

We will have what we call "Block Scheduling" next year. That means you will have half of your classes on one day and the other half of your classes the next day. We will post the schedule on our webpage once it is finalized.

The day will start at 7:50 and end at 2:26. Students can enter the building as early as 7:20 to get breakfast.

==Stay tuned for answers on the following questions:==

Will we use lockers? *Don't worry--when we do get the green light to use lockers again, you will spend a lot of time in TA learning how to use a combination lock.*

Do we need to dress out for PE?

When will Orientation be held? Will it be in person?

FREQUENTLY ASKED PARENT QUESTIONS:

What will the COVID protocols be like next year?
Central Office will share updates about this with all families via SchoolTalk and post updates on the APS website

Is there something my child should do over summer to be ready for next year?

https://www.apsva.us/summer-learning/

Summer Math Packets will be posted here:
https://www.apsva.us/mathematics/summer-reviews/

Read Every Day!
https://www.apsva.us/summer-learning/summer-reading-resources/

Arlington County Programs:
https://parks.arlingtonva.us/programs/summer-camps/

Is there an Extended Day Program?

At the middle school level, we have the Check-In program, which is held in our cafeteria until 6pm. More information on cost and registration can be found here:
https://www.apsva.us/extended-day/check-in-program-middle-school/

What is the gifted program like in middle school?
For each subject that a student is designated gifted, they will be placed in a class with several other students with that designation. Projects will be differentiated. Other extension opportunities will be provided by our Gifted Resource Teacher throughout the year.

What is the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme?
All students at Thomas Jefferson are part of the IB MYP which is a framework for learning that focuses on international-mindedness, service-learning, and citizenship. More information about the program can be found here:
https://jefferson.apsva.us/ib-programme/