



# Thomas Jefferson Middle School

## *IB MYP September Newsletter*

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



### Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: **BALANCED**

All IB Schools from Elementary to High School focus on the IB Learner Profile attributes that aim to help educate internationally minded people who focus on helping create a better world. This month we are focused on the IB Learner profile attribute of being **balanced** academically, physically and emotionally for ourselves and others. Starting next month we will recognize students who have demonstrated the attribute we are featuring that month.



Source: <https://pixabay.com/en/sunset-mountain-balance-top-1757593/>

### IB MYP Standard-Based Grading



This year we are using IB standards-based grading. Grading at Jefferson will be

more transparent, consistent, fair, and inclusive. In every class, grades will be determined by mastery of subject specific standards. Learn more about how we will apply these values in this letter [IB MYP Standards Based Grading](#), [En Espanol IB MYP Standards Based Grading](#), [watch a video explanation](#) and [visit this website](#) to see additional resources.

### An IB Policy explained: Academic Integrity



All IB schools have four required policies that should receive input from the whole school: [Academic Integrity](#), [Assessment](#), [Inclusion](#) and [Language](#). Every policy was reviewed or rewritten last year. We recently approved our Academic Integrity policy in order for students to learn how to correctly

credit the work of others and work in groups. We have an Academic Integrity Pledge that we ask both students and caregivers to sign, [you can find it here](#). Next month we will be reviewing our assessment, inclusion and language policy.

Source: [pixabay.com](https://pixabay.com)

### MYP Classrooms Gifted Differentiation

Gifted services information night was September 29th. If you missed the presentation, it will be posted to the [TJMS gifted services website](#) by October 7th. Parents and guardians may also watch the back to school video from Mrs. Detweiler [here](#). Our first critical and creative thinking strategy took place in 8th grade science with a Socratic Seminar on Ethics. Students engaged with Ted Talks, movie clips, and leveled text on Henrietta Lacks. They participated in a dialogue focused on the ethics behind her story and were successful in reflecting individually on why ethics is critical in science. Please follow gifted services on twitter @TJMSgifted for highlights and updates.



### Community Project

The Community Project, our capstone IB project, has launched for all 8th grade students. This year we will have students work in TA to complete the investigating and planning phases of their Community Project.



Students will investigate, plan, take action and present on service they choose to complete. Students should have already chosen a community goal to focus on. The most popular chosen need is climate change. All resources are in the 8th Grade TA Canvas. Learn more about the [Community Project here](#). Source: [pixabay.com](https://pixabay.com)

### Global Goals and Service Learning

In 2015, the United Nations proposed 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs). The SDGs focus on four areas: climate and our planet, poverty and inequality, justice and human rights, and gender inequality. Our students have been introduced to these Global Goals and have been asked to make connections between the goals and the Learner Profile attributes. In the months to come, students will have the opportunity to engage with service opportunities connected to the SDGs.



### After School Activities

After losing all after school activities in March 2020, they are back in a big way. Students can choose from a number of clubs, sports study hall, and ACT II classes. We are encouraging our students to join any activity that might be of interest to them. Many clubs and sports, thus far, are seeing record levels of student participation. Kids and adults too are happy to have the opportunity to engage in fun learning opportunities after school. Check out the list of drop in clubs to the right and [more information here](#).

### Upcoming dates/Service needs

- Anime** Manga Club: Meets Thursdays in Ms. Mann's room.
- Art Club**: Meets Mondays in Ms. Shepardson's room 61.
- Jefferson Environmental Club**: Meets Thursdays with Mr. Malinosky in room 277B.
- Fitness Club**: Meets Wednesdays with Mr. Siegel on the lower (turf) field.
- Garden Club**: Meets on Fridays In the garden with Ms. Dunbar.
- Jefferson (GSA) Gay Straight Alliance**: Meets Thursdays in Ms. Calhoun's room 206.

