



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IB MYP October Newsletter

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



Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: OPEN-MINDED

This month we are pleased to recognize our students who are practicing the IB Learner Profile attribute of open-mindedness. This means students who celebrate their own cultures and those of others.

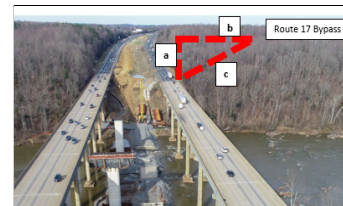


They are for the **Dolphins - Annie DeFilippi, Dragons - Essence Mays, Eagles - Omayma Paredes, Gators - Jonan Paz Siles, Monarchs - Ezekiel Groth, Owls - Olive Goyette, and Stingrays - Wren Gabel.**

Source: <https://pixabay.com/illustrations/thinking-open-mind-6488086/>

Authentic Assessment: Math

Our students in Math in Pre-Algebra are being challenged to solve mathematics in real life contexts. In this criterion D assessment, students had to apply the pythagorean theorem to determine the distance and best path for a new exit ramp off I-95. Students had to take on the role of highway advisory board members and make recommendations about what they think will work best.



An IB Policy explained: Inclusion Policy



Our leadership team reviewed our inclusion policy in October. The key point is that we want to ensure every student experiences success in their educational journey, to that end:

Teachers will: Differentiate instruction, implement student IEPs, 504 and/or individualized plans with fidelity, report student growth toward goals, and foster positive relationships with students. **Students should:** participate in learning activities, self-advocate, and understand their goals. **Parents/Guardians should:** participate in their student's progress on their goals, read IEPs, 504 and/or individualized plans. See the full policy:

jefferson.apsva.us/ib/policies-program-access/inclusion-policy/

Source: pixabay.com/vectors/one-inclusiveness-unity-united-3717696/

MYP Classrooms Gifted Curriculum Highlight

One way we deliver gifted services is through curriculum designed for critical and creative thinking. [The Renzulli School-wide Enrichment Model](#) is part of the APS critical and creative thinking framework and is used during TA on a weekly basis. In TA, students are given texts and/or audio visual materials to analyze and discuss with peers. This month students read spooky stories including "The Landlady" by Roald Dahl, "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe, and "Click, Clack, the Rattlebag" by Neil Gaiman. The focus of the questions was suspense and reliability of a narrator. If parents are interested in using this resource at home, here is a link to our [SEM-R questions](#) that can be used with most at-home reading genres.



Community Project

We are now moving into the investigation of the Community Project. Students have hopefully chosen a community and need they want to address. We are asking students to consider how the local problem they have chosen may be connected to a global context. Students will investigate problems from housing to climate, so that they might be able to help people or animals. We want students to be creative, collaborative as they carry out this project, which will be due in June.

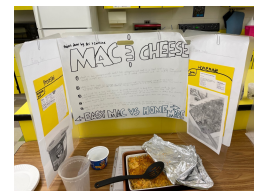


All resources are in the 8th Grade TA Canvas. Learn more about the [Community Project here](#). Source:

pixabay.com/vectors/association-community-group-meeting-152746/

Authentic Assessment: Design

Students in Ms. Boda's Design classes cooked some creative, delicious dishes to compare and contrast the health and taste of home cooked whole foods vs prepared, processed foods. In every case, students found that cooking meals with whole foods came out tasting better and healthier than processed, prepared foods. I sampled some student cooked mac and cheese, frittatas, chicken soup, and rice pudding. Our Yellow Jackets make better, healthier food than many multinational corporations. Students learned an important lesson about how sustainable food can be better for us and the environment than processed foods.



After School Activities: Environmental Club



Students in Jefferson's Environmental Club have been learning about the global climate crisis. They learned how greenhouse gases cause global warming and the actions that can be taken to reduce emissions. Specifically, students are calling their US Senators and the President to ask for big, bold climate policies to reduce emissions and invest in renewable energy. Our Yellow Jackets are already participants in democracy.

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.