



# Thomas Jefferson Middle School

## *IB MYP November Newsletter*

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



### Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: INQUIRER

This month we are pleased to recognize our students who are practicing the IB Learner Profile attribute of inquiring. This means students who show curiosity and a love of learning.



They are for the **Dolphins - Annika Haney, Dragons - Beckett Normington, Eagles - Devon Pearson, Gators - Eva Jaldin Torrico, Monarchs - Colin Cook, Owls - Joseph Velasquez, Stingrays - Luis Hernandez.** Source: <https://pixabay.com/illustrations/thinking-open-mind-6488086/>

### Principal's Message

Greetings TJMS School Community! I am pleased to share that we successfully completed the first quarter of the 2021-2022 school year, and the second quarter is well underway. Please do not hesitate to contact the TJMS Main Office if you need help accessing or understanding our new IB report cards.

A special "thank you" to our PTA for the tremendous Thanksgiving holiday support for our TJMS families. I also want to thank and commend our PTA for three fantastic events - Harvest Festival, Bingo Night, and Honor Roll Celebration. It was indeed a pleasure meeting so many TJMS families face-to-face after such a long period of social isolation and virtual meetings.

Please note that the last day of school before Winter Break is December 17, 2021. There will be no after school activities or late buses on that day. Stay safe!

Ms. Boggan

### Arts

#### Visual Arts - Ms. E. Shepardson

6th grade art was a whirlwind of creativity. Students made round clay boxes, identified drawings in pencil, and learned about one point perspective. They also learned a few new tricks in Autodesk Sketchbook. 7th grade students focused on contour drawing and took their best drawing to a higher level by adding texture, watercolor and words. They finished up the quarter working on bird sculptures made from wire, paper, paint and collage. 8th grade students focused on cross hatch shading and zen doodle designs to create a piece of art with the theme "Where I'm coming from." They finished the quarter using clay to create lidded boxes as well as a container of their own design.

#### Theatre Arts - Ms. Riley

All actors have been creative and busy this first quarter. All the drama students began their year devising and performing very entertaining Lip Sync performances. The 7th graders began studying the history and technique of pantomime and ended the very amusing pantomime performances. The 8th graders continued their quarter with learning how to stage a scene. They worked in groups to stage and perform a scene of their choice. After learning how to work as an ensemble and creating wonderful Lip Sync performances, the 6th graders have been preparing to study and perform the performance technique of Tableau.

#### Band - Ms. Tangchittsumran

Concert Band Blue (6th grade) started the year by focusing on developing skills in music reading, tone production, and articulation by playing exercises from the Tradition of Excellence method book. Concert Band Gold (most 7th grade & a few 8th grade students) has reviewed skills from last year and started preparing music for the Winter Band Concert. Symphonic Band (most 8th grade and some 7th grade students) have been developing ensemble playing and listening skills which we were

### Design

#### Family and Consumer Sciences - Mrs. Boda

All FACS classes began with Personal Development, developing positive personality traits, friendships, and communication skills. In our second unit (Food and Nutrition), 6th grade students learned how to measure ingredients and use kitchen tools and appliances safely as they made cheese biscuits and mini pizzas.

7th grade students read food labels to evaluate and compare foods. They practiced their measuring skills as they made chocolate cake-in-a-mug, and practiced safety and teamwork skills as they made home-made mac and cheese.

8th grade students learned many new recipe terms and techniques, and made a variety of home-made dishes. They did a Nutrition Challenge research project to compare the nutritional benefits of home-made vs store-bought foods.

#### Technology Education - Mr. Nolen

Technology Education (Gr. 6) Our quarter-long students got to work in 3D design, build some models in the shop and learn about civil engineering in a sim-design program!

Inventions & Innovations (Gr. 7) - Students are working in CAD to design 3D printed components for a mousetrap-powered vehicle challenge. Students must meet a certain rubric criteria for their vehicle with the supplies and time allotted.

Technology Systems (Gr. 8) - Students have designed 3D models in CAD and worked on wooden bridge structures. We have some amazing young engineers here at Jefferson!

#### Business and Information Technologies - Mr. Anderson

Computers (Gr. 6) - Grade 6 students worked on learning the basic computer programs such as the MS Office/ Google Suite.

not able to learn during virtual learning last year. All band classes have been developing instrument care habits through our Maintenance Monday routine. All TJMS Bands are currently preparing for the Winter Band Concert on Tuesday, December 7th at 7:00 PM in the TJMS Theatre.

#### Orchestra - Ms. Gomez

Jefferson's String Ensemble has spent the first quarter learning ensemble playing and individual musical skills, such as posture, tone production, and tuning instruments using a tuner app, students are getting a start on "Orchestra Karate" to determine their level of experience. The Chamber Orchestra and Virtuosi had seating auditions, and worked on technical skills, like tone production, scales, arpeggios, new rhythms and shifting. Both of these ensembles performed wonderfully in the Fall Pops Concert on October 26th. Members from the Chamber and Virtuosi classes also took part in a chamber music performance at the the PTA-sponsored Fall Harvest Festival on November 5th. All classes have gotten a start on writing final reflections and will be looking toward preparation for the Winter Orchestra Concert on Tuesday, December 13th.

#### Chorus - Mr. Banach

Chorus students began the year working on breathing techniques and tone production strategies to foster confidence and growth as singers. Students utilized Curwen hand signs to promote strong musicianship and intonation while performing scales. All chorus students had the opportunity to perform at the PTA-sponsored Fall Harvest Festival on November 5th. In addition, some students auditioned for the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) District XII Honors Chorus and the Arlington Middle School Honors Chorus. All classes are beginning a new IB unit on performing with technical accuracy in preparation for their winter performance on Tuesday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the TJMS theater.

Students also worked on improving their words per minute and accuracy on desktop and bluetooth keyboards.

Digital Input Technologies (Gr. 7) - Grade 7 students practicing composing professional communications documents using desktop, online, and mobile Microsoft Office Applications. Students will also explore the digital input technology mix, relevant and emerging technologies, and lifelong learning. Finally, students will explore mobile devices, club computing, and the internet of things.

Computer & Internet Technologies (Gr. 8) - Grade 8 students will learn about computer operations including computer system components and safety precautions. Students will also learn about MS Word, Spreadsheet applications, and multimedia applications.

Act II Yearbook - Grade 8 students attended the NOVA Yearbooks Fall Workshop where they joined other middle school yearbook staff to discuss theme and concept, examine storylines, and look at visual inspiration.

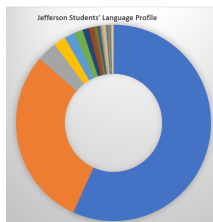
#### Business and Information Technologies - Mr. Ammon

Digital Input Technologies (Gr. 7) - Grade 7 students practicing composing professional communications documents using desktop, online, and mobile Microsoft Office Applications.

Technology of Robotic Design - Grade 8 students differentiated between robotic and automated systems. They demonstrated understanding of the universal systems model. Later in the quarter they used the engineering design process to propose robotic solutions in response to a design brief.

Investigating Computer Science - Students in 8th grade developed an understanding of computer science and programming as a method for problem solving. Using the block-based languages, students demonstrated how to give step-by-step instructions to a computer. Later in the quarter students demonstrated correct syntax to collect input and display output with the Python programming language.

#### An IB Policy explained: Language Policy



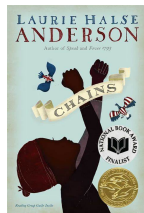
Every year we update our Jefferson language policy. A core principle of this policy is that Jefferson is a multilingual school as a fact, right, and resource. A fact is that our students are from all across the globe. The chart to the left shows the percentages of TJ students' primary languages: English (57%), Spanish (30%),

Amharic (3%), Arabic and Bengali both at 2%, all others 1% or less. Multilingualism is a right in that students have a right to continue to learn in their mother tongue as they learn other languages. And a resource, in that our students' multilingualism helps them develop critical thinking skills and international-mindedness. See the full policy here:

[jefferson.apsva.us/ib/policies-program-access/inclusion-policy/](http://jefferson.apsva.us/ib/policies-program-access/inclusion-policy/)

#### MYP Classrooms Gifted Curriculum Highlight

This quarter our eighth grade students are writing two DBQs (document based questions). A DBQ is a high level analysis essay that analyzes a historical event, literary theme, or social trend with the aid of primary and secondary sources. Eighth graders are writing essays that analyze the Great Migration in geography and Dystopian characteristics in ELA. All eighth graders at Jefferson are expected to produce high level writing throughout the year and our teachers have set the bar high with these assignments.



Sixth grade students who are gifted in social studies or those working at an advanced level have also received compacted curriculum in order to participate in historical fiction book clubs. The objective of these book clubs is to have students analyze the verisimilitude of the stories. Students will evaluate the novels' elements of truth, embellishment, and discuss historical documents that appear in the stories.

### 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:

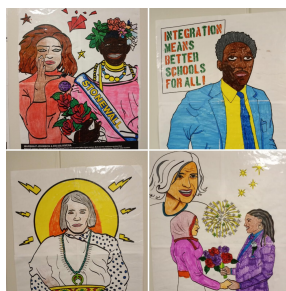
[pixabay.com/vectors/association-community-group-meeting-152746/](https://pixabay.com/vectors/association-community-group-meeting-152746/)

### Service-Learning

Ms. Boda's student Daniel Ventura brought in 50 juice boxes, and 60 bags of chips to be donated to Path Forward, formerly Arlington Street People's Assistance Network to help unhoused people in Arlington. Ms Boda invited her TA to bring something to donate. Ventura went above and beyond all expectations.



### After School Activities: GSA



The Thomas Jefferson Middle School GSA celebrated LGBTQ+ History Month this past October by learning about key figures and movements in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights. The GSA decorated resources designed by the GLSEN organization (GLSEN.org) for display in the hallway so that everyone in the school could learn about LGBTQ+ history!

### 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.