



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

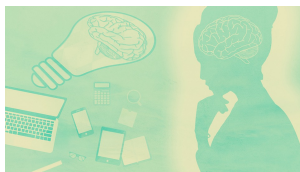
IB MYP January Newsletter

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



Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: Reflective

This month we are pleased to recognize our students who are practicing the IB Learner Profile attribute of being reflective. This means students who thoughtfully consider the world, their own ideas and their experiences.

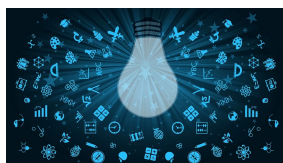


The reflective students of the month are for the **Dolphins - Ester Melo, Dragons - Tyler Hong, Eagles - August Goldener, Gators - Bellum McPhilips DeFilippi, Monarch - Evelyn Donovan, Owls - Bella Sullivan, Stingrays - Yordanos Delle.**

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

PREVIOUS MONTHS WINNERS

Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: Knowledgeable



This month we are pleased to recognize our students who are practicing the IB Learner Profile attribute of being knowledgeable. This means students who show

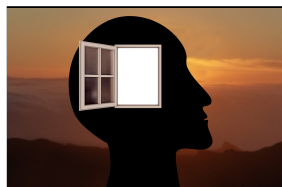
understanding of issues and ideas in local and global contexts.

The knowledgeable students of the month are for the **Dolphins - Juliet Thorn, Dragons - Cate LaGarde, Eagles - Cameron Rickie, Gators - Hasna Abdelkarim, Monarch - Olivia Grossman, Owls - Edan Goldenpine, Stingrays - Kaya Gadhia.** Source:

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

Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: Inquirers

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

I am pleased to share that we successfully completed the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year at Thomas Jefferson Middle School (TJMS). Safety is always a priority at TJMS and even more so during this COVID-19 pandemic we are experiencing. Our slogan is, "Keep COVID-19 out so we can stay in!" To that end, please be mindful of the following:

- Parents/guardians should complete the daily health screener sent to all families and employees every morning to encourage students and staff to remain at home when sick.
- APS requires all students, staff and visitors to wear a mask in all Arlington Public Schools facilities and school buses. Surgical, KN95 and/or N95 masks are strongly recommended.
- Families can sign their student(s) up for free weekly in-school COVID-19 testing.
- Families can schedule an appointment for free symptomatic or exposure testing at Kenmore.
- Vaccination appointments can be made at nearby pharmacies and clinics, by visiting [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) ([vacunas.gov](https://www.vacunas.gov)), at your pediatrician's office, or online by [visiting VAMS and clicking the "Schedule a Pediatric COVID-19 vaccine appointment" icon](#) or by calling the County's COVID-19 hotline at 703-228-7999.

Please note that:

- School starts at 7:50 AM. Students should be in their Teacher Advisory (TA) class by 7:50 AM. Many of our students are arriving at or after 7:50 AM, therefore missing important announcements as well as the beginning of class routines and activities.
- Students who are absent need to stay connected with school and up to date with assignments through Canvas.
- TJMS families without reliable internet access at home should contact Ms. Stephanie Smith, TJMS Equity Coordinator, at 703-228-5874 or stephanie.smith@apsva.us
- All students will receive a KN95 mask and at-home COVID-19 test kit.

Together we will not only keep TJMS safe for our students and staff, but ensure TJMS remains "The Best of the Best."

K. Boggan

Arts

Visual Arts - Ms. E. Shepardson

During the second quarter, 8th graders made clay boxes and then designed their own containers; which included fish, game controllers and city skylines. They also painted abstract paintings and carved linoleum blocks with a nature theme. They were very impressed with their finished prints. 7th grade students built bird sculptures out of wire and paper mache. Staff and students enjoyed seeing the varied creations in the library. 7th graders also painted with color schemes in mind, and made complex two point perspective drawings. 6th grade students painted landscapes, drew one point perspective scenes, and created

Design

Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) - Mrs. Boda

In November, we did our Financial Education unit. In December, students used the Design Cycle to plan and create sewing projects. 6th graders completed felt ornaments, 7th graders used the sewing machine to create an emoji pillow, and 8th graders created a monogrammed pencil pouch. In January FACS students completed a Babysitting Unit, and started thinking about ways that middle schoolers can earn spending money.

circular clay boxes. They also learned a few more digital art techniques.

Theatre Arts - Ms. Riley

The second quarter was filled with many marvelous theatrical creations. The 6th grade actors journeyed into the world of Tableau. They devised original Tableau performances that shared a fable or fairy tale.

The 7th and 8th grade actors were both playwrights and actors this quarter. They wrote and performed in original scenes. The scenes were unique. They enjoyed seeing their work brought to life!

Band - Ms. Tangchittsumran

During second quarter, all band students presented an outstanding Winter Concert on December 7. In mid-January, the TJMS Band welcomed a new student teacher, Ms. Alexis Rowland. Ms. Rowland is a former TJMS student who is currently a Senior Music Education Major at James Madison University. She will be student teaching with Ms. T at Jefferson until March 14 and will then take over as Ms. T's long-term substitute teacher from late March until the end of the school year.

Concert Band Blue has been performing from the Tradition of Excellence Method Book to develop music reading and performance skills. Concert Band Gold classes have been working on F Stretch Exercise and their Concert B-flat major scale. They are also beginning to prepare music for their Spring Concert performances. Symphonic Band has started learning three pieces of music for our Assessment performances (which are like an "SOL" exam for band, orchestra, and chorus.). They have also been working to learn their F, B-flat, E-flat, and A-flat major scales. The Symphonic Band will perform at the Wakefield High School Pre-Assessment Concert on Thursday, March 3 and the VBODA District 12 Middle School Band Assessment on Friday, March 11 at Langley High School.

Orchestra - Ms. Gomez

Second Quarter: Our orchestras' biggest accomplishment was the Winter Concert in December which featured all of the 6th, 7th and 8th grade orchestra students playing a wide variety of repertoire for their families and friends. It is a wonderful experience for music students to go on stage, dress up, and perform for their families and peers. Students also enjoyed several pop-up holiday concerts in the hallways of the school to celebrate Winter Break. The students were challenged this quarter to learn this difficult and engaging repertoire in two short months. The whole second quarter was filled with sight reading skills development, scales, bowing patterns, finger patterns and lots of good music. The 6th graders are developing into fine orchestral musicians and 6 were accepted into the Junior Honors Orchestra. A large group of 7th and 8th graders prepared for the audition for the Honors orchestra and were accepted. The TJMS Orchestras are getting ready for District XII Assessment at Kenmore Middle School.

Chorus - Mr. Banach

During the second marking period, chorus students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades performed a successful Winter Concert in the TJMS Theater on December 14. After these performances, students continued their study of music literacy through reflection, vocabulary and sight singing. Several students are participating in the Arlington Honors Chorus from January 26-29



Source: <https://pixabay.com/illustrations/geometric-design-computer-1732847/>

Technology Education - Mr. Nolen

6th Grade students worked hard on designing a new virtual "Arlington", one that would be perfect for our new Amazon neighbors. They discovered getting rid of traffic isn't easy in virtual reality either! 7th Grade students learned digital imaging using Photoshop while our 8th graders studied digital manufacturing. Students are always challenged to create new and innovative ideas to solve problems. We will have all new students in February for our second semester and we look forward to designing some bridges.

Business and Information Technologies - Mr. Anderson

Yearbook grade 8 students developed proficiency in applying principles of layout and design in completing page spread assignments using industry-standard application software.

Digital Input Technology grade 7 students, collaborating with an assigned Mentor, completed team project models, electronic presentations, and 3D plans for the A4LE SchoolsNEXT Design Competition. Teams presented in-class to the District Jury, and one team was selected to compete at the statewide competition.

Design Tech - Computers grade 6 students developed advertising messages and marketing plans to reach potential audiences for products, brands, organizations, and ideas. Students completed a SWOT analysis and created slideshow presentations.

Business and Information Technologies - Mr. Ammon

Investigating Computer Science - Students continued learning computer programming concepts and demonstrating those skills in the Python programming language. We are demonstrating proper syntax and logic to solve challenges. After writing programs to solve math problems, we demonstrated how programs can change output by using conditional statements to make decisions.

Robotics - First period began our Electronics unit. Students are building circuits and demonstrating understanding of Ohm's law by designing circuits to solve real world problems. Second period began our unit on mechanical design. Students demonstrate how machines make work easier. Students demonstrate the relationship between speed and torque and computer gear ratios. We use gears and mechanisms to control direction and speed of motion when designing real world products, like a child's pull toy. The classes will switch units later winter.

at Kenmore Middle School and District Honors Choir on February 11 & 12 at Washington-Liberty High School. Chorus students in 7th and 8th grade are performing at the South Arlington Pyramid Concert on February 3 at Wakefield HS and are preparing to be judged at their District Assessment (our version of the SOL) taking place Saturday, March 26 at Kenmore Middle School.



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Community Project

We are moving into the taking action phase of the Community Project. Many students have completed their investigations and planning phases of the project. Among the most popular issues are helping people with mental issues, helping people who are homeless, and helping animals. We have students engaged in research and organizing collection drives to help those communities they chose.

The IB understands taking action broadly in that service can include direct participation, research, to inform, or change behaviors. We have students engaged in all these activities. The hope is that during these difficult times we will be able to help others in creative, meaningful ways.

Learn more about the [Community Project here](#).

SCA Service-Learning

The Student Council Advisory (SCA) has been starting the new year with a flurry of activity. First the SCA met with Principal Boggan to discuss school issues and events. Students asked questions about dances, lunches, and end of the year events. As the town hall finished, Principal Boggan suggested that the SCA form committees to work on the issues raised and report back in a month.

Now the SCA has formed four committees to work on: service learning, International night, better lunches, and school tours. Students have already divided up the work and are making plans to move TJMS forward on all issues.

Finally, SCA has started selling candy grams for Valentine's Day with proceeds benefiting the SCA and local charities.

Assessment Policy: Assignment View and Standard View

This is just a reminder that in ParentVUE and StudentVUE there is both "Assignment View" and "Standard View". "Assignment View" is meant to show all assignments, whether formative or summative. Usually scores in this view are just for the formative assessments. For the "Standard View" one can see scores by standard and for all summative tasks. This view shows what students are learning in four subject specific standards for every class.

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.
- Reading Buddies**: Meets Fridays with Ms. Dunbar, room 272
- Jefferson (GSA) Gay Straight Alliance**: Meets Thursdays in Ms. Calhoun's room 206.