



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IB MYP February Newsletter

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



Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: Thinker



find creative solutions to problems.

The thinkers of the month are for the **Dolphins - Lysette Awotwi, Dragons - Romeesa Adhi, Eagles - Lindsay Sanchez Sanchez, Gators - Alessandra Mendoza, Monarch - Sabrina Yimer, Owls - Sabrina Morgan, Stingrays - Isaac Moreno Fuentes.**

Source: pixabay.com/photos/forest-glade-enlightenment-mystical-4571929/

Civics Town Hall with Congressman Beyer

On Wednesday, February 23, Jefferson 7th grade students hosted a Microsoft Teams Live town hall with Congressman Don Beyer. Our class President Bellum McPhillips-Delfippi and Vice-President Essence Mays introduced the Congressman and took turns asking him questions submitted by our 7th grade students. All Civics students wrote letters to their elected officials as their summative assessment for the legislative unit. Students got to complete the unit, by asking the Congressman about key topics in public policy.



An IB Policy explained: Academic Integrity

As we move into the third quarter now is a good time to remind everyone about our Academic Integrity policy. Below are the main community rights and responsibilities.

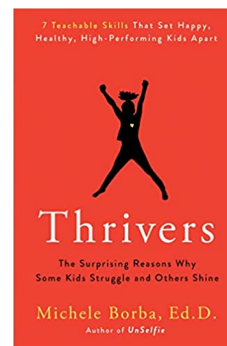
Teachers should: teach proper ways to acknowledge others' work, provide simple, clear guidelines, provide examples, and administer the online pledge.

Students should: complete their own work, give credit to others, use appropriate ways to signal use of sources, focusing on APA style citations, ask a teacher for help, and sign the online pledge.

Families should: should support students and understand academic misconduct and consequences. [See the full policy here.](#)

MYP Classrooms Gifted Curriculum Highlight

Highlights from this quarter include our very first [Thrivers](#) book club. *Thrivers*, by Michele Borba, focuses on seven teachable skills that can set students up for success in life. So far twelve of our staff have opted into this book group and are meeting once a month. This month we discussed how to teach self-confidence and empathy to middle school students. We know our students need more than just academics this year, and the discussions and ideas that have come from our group demonstrate the dedication TJMS teachers have for students. We also agree that this book is not just for educators, but for parents as well. [Take a look!](#)



Community Project



Students are all along different paths on their Community Project. Some have completed the actions they need to take. Others are still considering what community they want to help. This is just fine for now. We want all students to choose a topic and community that interests them and plan meaningful actions to help.

Mr. Malinosky and Ms. Brundidge are setting up individual meetings with students to make sure they have the support they need to succeed. Special modules on homelessness, mental health, the climate crisis and fighting racism are being set up to support students in TA Canvas.

SCA Update



In February the Student Council Advisory (SCA) sold more than 400 Valentine's Day candy grams to raise funds for school activities. Then the SCA held a town hall meeting with Principal Boggan and discussed a variety of school issues and needs.

From that meeting, the SCA decided to follow Ms. Boggan's lead and divided up into committees to tackle the issues we discussed including: 1) TA and service lessons, 2) International Night, 3) School Tours, and 4) Better school lunches. Each committee has goals and is planning next actions.

Source: <https://pixabay.com/vectors/hearts-letter-envelope-love-5947464/>

Sciences: Outdoor Lab



The entire 7th grade, once again, was able to participate in the Arlington Public Schools Outdoor lab. Students had the opportunity to study ecology in the natural environment while cooking hotdogs and smores over fire.

Principal's Message

TJMS families if you have not already, please complete the following surveys:

- [APS Bell Times Study Survey Open Until March 28](#)
- [APS "Your Voice Matters" Survey Open until April 10](#)

Save the date for International Night, Friday 5:30pm, April 29.