



# Thomas Jefferson Middle School

## IB MYP March Newsletter

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



### Principal's Message

Greetings TJMS Families,

The 2022 Your Voice Matters Survey is underway and is scheduled to end on April 10th. TJMS' current response rates is as follows:

Survey	Jefferson	Goals
Students	72.8%	90%
Staff	37.0%	80%
Families	14.1%	30%

We want to make sure that your voice is included in the results since they are used by APS to identify what is working well and what things need improvement. Please take 10 minutes to complete your survey today.

- You received an email from [support+arlingtonva@panoramaed.com](mailto:support+arlingtonva@panoramaed.com) with a link to your survey.
- If you need the link re-sent, please email [support+arlingtonva@panoramaed.com](mailto:support+arlingtonva@panoramaed.com) and ask for the email to be resent to you.
- Results are confidential. Nobody in APS can see your answers to the survey. Only aggregated results are ever given to APS.

You can find more information here: <https://www.apsva.us/engage/your-voice-matters-survey-2022/>

### Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: Risk-Taker



This month we are pleased to recognize our students who are practicing the IB Learner Profile attribute of being thinkers. This means students who make reasoned, ethical decisions and

find creative solutions to problems.

The risk-takers 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/](https://pixabay.com/photos/forest-glade-enlightenment-mystical-4571929/)

### International Night, April 29 at 5:30pm



Join us to celebrate our many cultures and traditions. Eat delicious food from international food trucks, play international games and enjoy music and dances from around the world. The purpose of this celebration has always been to come together as a larger community to celebrate

the many wonderful cultures that are a part of Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

**Friday, April 29th, 2022**

**5:30 PM—8:00 PM**

**Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Near the Garden**

Source: <https://pixabay.com/vectors/international-world-flags-countries-1751293/>

### Arts

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

**6th grade art** was a whirlwind of creativity. Students made round clay boxes, identity drawings in pencil, and learned about one point perspective. In painting, they mixed colors and made collages with their painted swatches.

**7th grade students** focused on contour drawing and took their best drawing to a higher level by adding texture, watercolor and words. They worked in clay to create a standing initial and a square box with a lid. Now they are starting from a two-point perspective.

**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 put those skills to use to create a linoleum block design derived from nature. They learned how to print in black and white and experimented with different color processes, such as rainbow roll and spot color.

### Design

#### Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) - 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.

### **Theatre Arts - Ms. Riley**

All actors have been creative and busy during the 3rd quarter. All the drama students began this semester devising and performing very entertaining Lip Sync performances and making original iMovie Trailers.

The 7th and 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. The 4th quarter will challenge the actors even further in their creative expression. The 6th graders studied and devised Tableau Performances. It has been a great quarter with the 6th graders. Hopefully we can explore more in drama next year.

### **Band - Ms. Tangchittsumran**

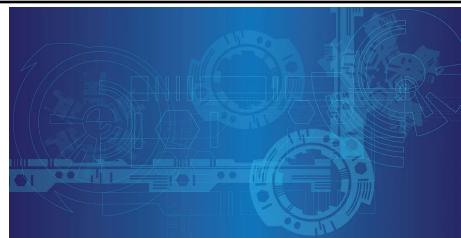
The Symphonic Band (mostly 8th grade, with some 7th grade students) started the third quarter strong, with an Excellent rating at District Assessment. This was the first time that any of the students had participated in District Assessment, which made their performance that much more impressive. Concert Band Gold (mostly 7th grade, with some 8th grade students) has been working on learning new scales, as well as peer coaching skills. Concert Band Blue (6th grade) has continued to develop skills in music reading while expanding their range on their instruments. They have also been learning ensemble skills through transitioning to multi-part repertoire, something that most of them are not as familiar with. Five soloists and two small ensembles are preparing individually for the Solo and Ensemble Festival, all of whom have never participated in an event like it. All groups continue to maintain good instrument care routines with weekly Maintenance Mondays. All groups are also hard at work preparing for their Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00 pm in the TJMS Theatre. Everyone is being challenged with preparing a lot of repertoire, playing in new time signatures (and changing time signatures), performing new rhythms, and expanding their range.

### **Orchestra - Ms. Gomez**

Jefferson's Orchestras have spent the quarter developing ensemble playing skills: how to watch, listen and blend with each other. We are reviewing individual musical skills such technique, tone production, rhythm and intonation. Students performed a successful concert at the District 12 Assessment Concert and earned perfect scores in Sight Reading and Interpretation. We are now working on a Latin American Themed International Night Concert, music for two different Farmer's Markets and individual solos and ensembles for the District 12 Solo and Ensemble Festival. We are looking forward to playing for the school in May and for our families on May 12. Six of our 6th graders finished a successful season with the all-county Arlington Junior Honors Orchestra.

### **Chorus - Mr. Banach**

The Jefferson Concert Choir (6th grade) has been busy working on breathing techniques and tone production strategies to foster confidence and growth as singers. Students utilize Curwen hand signs to promote strong musicianship and intonation while performing scales. The Jefferson Chorale (7th & 8th grade) had a successful performance at the District 12 Choral Assessment and earned the top rating of Superior on their performance. Both groups are beginning to prepare new songs for the spring concert on Tuesday, May 17 in the TJMS theater.



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

### **Technology Education - Mr. Nolen**

**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 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. 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 how paychecks work including taxes, deductions, and consumer math.

**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** - Students are putting the final touches on the yearbook so that it will be delivered in early June.

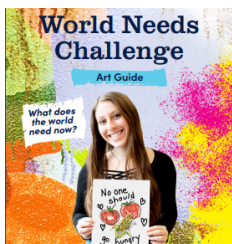
### **Business and Information Technologies - Mr. Ammon**

**Digital Input Technologies (Gr. 7)** - Grade 7 students practiced composing professional communications documents. They used databases to conduct research about a chosen country and then created a brochure in Microsoft Publisher.

**Technology of Robotic Design** - Grade 8 students demonstrated how to design and build electronic circuits. They also created mechanical pull toys to demonstrate how mechanisms control motion and how gears pairings can be used to control speed and torque.

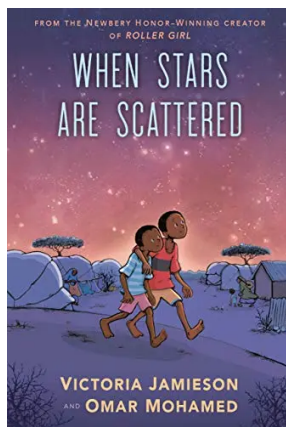
**Investigating Computer Science** - Students in 8th grade continue to grow their vocabulary and skills using the Python programming language. They demonstrated how to repeat chunks of coding using For and While loops, and they also practiced defining and calling functions.

## Community Project and Service Learning



We are into the taking action phase of the Community Project. And we have an exciting opportunity to partner with the Students Rebuild Organization. This group is hosting a World Needs Challenge that involves creating art about one of five challenges: clean oceans, humanitarian aid, hunger relief, overcoming bias, and art activism. Students will then upload photos of their art to a webpage and for every piece of art created, \$5 will be donated to a relevant non-profit by the Bezos Family Foundation. This challenge is open to all students. Eighth grades can make it into their Community Project if they make a presentation to go along with their art.

## MYP Classrooms Gifted Curriculum Highlight



An example of successful instruction in critical thinking is taking place in 6th grade reading. Students were allowed to choose a fictional novel, like "When Stars Scattered" by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, and then given opportunities for structured student-led discussions. The next phase of this unit will be teaching students the question formulation technique (QFT), which will be in preparation for a cumulative Socratic Seminar.