



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IB MYP December Newsletter

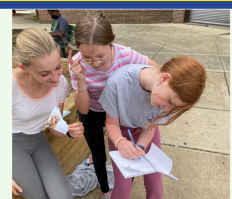
Learning together to understand and improve ourselves, our futures, and our world.



Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: Knowledgeable

KNOWLEDGEABLE

We explore learning across every subject area. We learn about local and global issues.



JEFFERSON MS LEARNER PROFILE

This November we focused on the learner attribute of being knowledgeable. This means we explore learning across every subject area in local and global contexts. Teachers are encouraged to make international connections whenever it is authentic and meaningful. Students are asked to transfer their learning to new and different contexts. [See the larger poster here.](#)

The School Action Plan's IB Focus

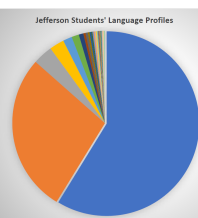


Middle Years Programme

This year we are putting a new emphasis on **Internal standardization**. This means at least once a quarter, teachers will grade samples of student assignments together for greater consistency and fairness. Teachers do this by selecting samples of student work. They use a rubric with clear descriptors of different levels of achievement. Then starting at the bottom, they work to find consensus on the most accurate description of the student's performance. This way teachers arrive at greater clarity on the grading process.

An IB Policy explained: Language

Language	Number
English	25
Spanish	15
Amharic	10
Arabic	8
Mongolian	5
Other	10



Our updated TJ Language policy includes the latest language profile of our students. The top five languages are 1) English, 2) Spanish, 3) Amharic, 4) Arabic, and 5) Mongolian. There is no question that TJMS is a multilingual school as a fact, right and

resource. Language learning is a right in that students have a right to learn the language of their choice. It is a resource because students who can communicate in more than one language can better express themselves.

Source: pixbay.com

MYP Classrooms Gifted Differentiation

This quarter our staff development for gifted services is on thinking routines from Harvard's Project Zero. Staff can opt in to this training as part of their planning and complete a five hour implementation cycle with Megan Detweiler, the RTG. Thinking routines are part of making thinking visible in the classroom and allow students to take ownership of their learning, especially with formative assignments and assessments. Anything formative is not counted towards a final grade, but it is critical to make sure these learning activities are rigorous and student-led. For more information on thinking routines, check out the [project zero toolbox](#) or [The Power of Making Thinking Visible](#), by Ron Ritchhart and Mark Church.

Community Project: Revised Dates



The far majority of students have now started their Community Project and are beginning their investigations into different communities.

-Nov 7 - Community Selection Document: no change here. Most students have completed it.

Those who haven't are being followed with.

-Jan 11 - Community Investigation: students now have until after the break to investigate a community need and ways to help.

-May 5 - Presentation Submitted: No change here, this is the

Source: pixbay.com

Global Goals and Service Learning

TJMS Students have brought our Arlington Food Assistance Center food drive to a close. We managed to fill two full sized boxes with goods, peanut butter and



cereal to help food insecure people in Arlington. Not only did students donate to help, but they also learned about how many people are food insecure in the DC region and policies that have been found to help reduce the need.

Traveling Orchestra Performances



Thanks to Ms. Detweiler TJMS Orchestra students brought some holiday cheer to folks at the Culpepper Gardens retirement homes. Students performed several songs for the residents. According to Ms.

Detwwiler, "It was an amazing experience! The kids did great!

Student Council Advisory (SCA) Update



The Student Council Advisory is busy running our non-profit school store, running a holiday candy cane fundraiser, and planning a talent show for 2023. Students have also been suggesting ideas for improving the school academically. One key student created idea broadcast on the school news is for teachers to spread out summative assessments.