



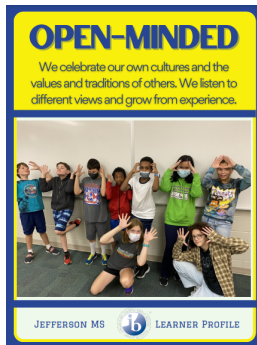
Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IB MYP October Newsletter

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



Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: Open-Minded



This October we focused on the learner attribute of being open minded. This means celebrating our own cultures and the values and traditions of others. In classes students learned about the global goals and the challenges we face as one world. We participated on October 19 in a national campaign wearing orange to reject bullying the opposite of being open-minded. [See the larger poster here.](#)

The School Action Plan's IB Focus



Middle Years Programme

Every APS school is required to have an action plan for school improvement. Our 2022-2023

action plan includes 3 specific IB goals:

- 1) **International-mindedness and service learning** - each subject area will include a service learning connection and international connection in the curriculum.
- 2) **Unit planning** - we will finish at least 1 unit planner with inquiry, action and reflection sections complet a quarter.
- 3) **Internal standardization** - at least once a quarter, teachers will grade samples of student assignments together for greater consistency and fairness.

An IB Policy explained: Assessment



The TJMS Assessment policy establishes that grades should be consistent, transparent, inclusive, fair and equitable in-line with IB standards. In order to do this we have rights and responsibilities for everyone.

-Teachers will: ensure summative tasks are aligned with standards and clear rubrics that are shared with students before they are assessed. Furthermore, teachers will give feedback on formative tasks and grade examples of student work together

-Students will: strive to complete assignments, be academic risk-takers, and ask for help when needed.

-Families will: check-in with students and check ParentVue.

Source: pixbay.com

MYP Classrooms Gifted Differentiation

Gifted services information night was September 29th. If you missed the presentation, it will be posted to the [TJMS gifted services website](#) by October 7th.

Parents and guardians may also watch the back to school video from Mrs. Detweiler [here](#). Our first critical and creative thinking strategy took place in 8th grade science with a Socratic Seminar on Ethics. Students engaged with Ted Talks, movie clips, and leveled text on Henrietta Lacks. They participated in a dialogue focused on the ethics behind her story and were successful in reflecting individually on why ethics is critical in science. Please follow gifted services on twitter [@TJMSgifted](#) for highlights & updates.



Community Project



The Community Project is now underway. Dozens of students have already submitted their initial ideas for addressing hunger, climate, refugees and more. We now have a revised set of dates:

-Nov 7 - Community Selection Document: this is the assignment that helps students choose a community they want to investigate.

-Dec 12 - Community Investigation: this assignment helps students focus on a community need they want to address.

-Jan 18 - Proposal for Action: this is a goal to help a community.

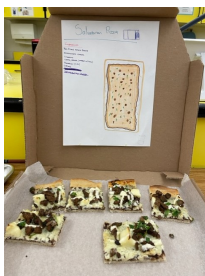
-May 5 - Presentation Submitted: this is the Google Slides presentation. Source: pixbay.com

Global Goals and Service Learning

Throughout October we in Teacher Advisory classes students learned about the Global Goals. Students responded to survey questions about which goal they thought was the most important and overwhelmingly students "Zero Hunger" is the most important. Therefore, for the Month of November we will be partnering with the Arlington Food Assistance Center to host a food drive. **During TA, we will be collecting: canned tuna, canned soups, canned vegetables, canned tomatoes, peanut butter, and cereal.**



Design Assessment International Pizza



Ms. Boda's Design Family and Consumer Sciences classes hosted TJMS staff for the return of the international pizza competition. Pizza was assessed using a rubric that included criteria for presentation, creativity and tastiness. All pizzas were delicious, but the El Salvadoran pizza was a clear winner among one group of teachers.

Student Council Advisory (SCA) Update



The Student Council Advisory group has been meeting to plan service activities, dances, the school store and fundraisers. And our President and Vice-President went on the news to remind all students to get involved in after school activities, raise grades, and ask teachers to spread out summative assessments. More to come from the SCA!