



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

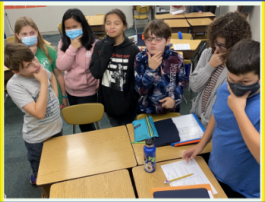
IB MYP January Newsletter


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



Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: Reflective

THINKERS
We consider problems by breaking them down and using creative solutions. We make good, thoughtful decisions.



JEFFERSON MS  LEARNER PROFILE

This January we focused on the learner profile attribute of being a thinker. This means we use critical and creative thinking skills to take action on complex problems. Teachers often encourage students to make claims and back their claims up with reasons and evidence. Often students are involved in learning about real-world challenges and considering solutions.

[See the larger poster here.](#)

The School Action Plan's IB Focus



After three very turbulent years, we are finally able to begin reflecting on our unit plans without the word unprecedented. The IB requires all teachers to reflect on units before, during, and after the learning. We are aiming to capture our successes and the processes that led to those successes. We of course want to focus on areas where we can improve too. It is important to focus on what went well so everyone is motivated to expand our successful projects rather than become defensive about anything that falls short.

Sciences: Outdoor Lab



From January 20-27, TJ 7th grade students participated in the Outdoor Lab Arlington Field Trip to the woods in Fauquier county. Students learned about ecology by visiting different stations in the woods including stream life,

tracks and an animal in decomposition. They enjoyed hotdogs for lunch over a campfire with smores for dessert. Finally students got to visit and pet some snakes.

MYP Classrooms Gifted Differentiation

Next year APS will have intensified courses in 7th and 8th grade. Students who demonstrate readiness to take on rigorous course-work in English, science and social studies should discuss this option with their families. Students may select one intensified course based on their strengths, or they may choose to do all intensified courses. These courses are designed to dive deeper into content through the use of critical and creative thinking strategies. Teachers will use the same IB units for general education and intensified courses, but assessments and learning activities will be more rigorous and the workload will be significantly higher.

Community Project: Proposal for Action



Most of our students have now completed the Investigation phase of their Community Project! Of course any students who have not finished it, must get this done. Now it's time for the **Proposal for Action**. This is where students ensure they

have a goal to help a community that is highly challenging and SMART. This is specific, measurable, achievable, rigorous, and time-bound. Students need to plan their service action(s) to help a community they chose. It is due March 3. While taking action the students should take photos and reflect on their learning.

Source: pixbav.com

Global Goals and Service Learning

For service learning in the New Year, we are turning our focus toward writing letters to people in isolation. We are partnering with the group "Letters Against Isolation" to fulfill letter requests to lonely seniors in retirement homes. This connects with global goal 3: Good Health and Well Being. Part of this goal is good mental health which promoting social connections can help, both for students and seniors.



Sciences



Thanks to Ms. Holland-Shuford and all the science teachers, we had an innovative and exciting Science Fair this month. Among dozens of contestants we had the following student

winner: Romessa Adhi, Preontee Barua, Nolan Forester, Cate LaGarde, Zeynep Seyran & Kira Komlodi, Annie Defilippi, and Noemi Wondim.

Student Council Advisory (SCA) Update



The Student Council Advisory hosted a Talent Show open to any student that wanted to sing, dance, and/or play an instrument. We didn't have enough for a full live performance, so our students adjusted to video recording the show. This had the advantage of giving the performers a trial run. Next up is the Valentine's Day Dance, Monday Feb 13 starting at 2:35pm to 4:00pm.

Arts

Visual Arts - Ms. E. Shepardson

During the second quarter, 8th graders drew pictures derived from memories, made clay puzzle boxes, and worked on one point perspective lettering. They also made some interesting Altered Books by recycling discarded library books into art with paint, collage and carving. 7th grade students built bird sculptures out of wire and paper mache. They also practiced contour drawing, one of which became enhanced with color, texture and text. In addition they also painted with color schemes in mind, and made two point perspective drawings. 6th grade students learned about shading and drew a coat of arms. They also painted landscapes, drew one point perspective scenes, and created pinch pots and frames with clay.

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 grade actors were playwrights and actors this quarter. They wrote and performed in original monologues. The monologues were unique, and they enjoyed seeing their work brought to life! Their last project was class choice. The 3rd period class chose to do a mock 48 Hour Film Festival project. Each team had to create a short film that they devised from a given prop, character, line of dialogue, and genre of film. The 4th period class chose to perform the play *In The Box* for the 2nd grade at Fleet. They loved hosting and entertaining future TJMS students.

The 8th grade actors also chose to perform for Fleet Students. We brought a short play to the preschool class. They performed and then had a good time playing with the littlest students.

Band - Ms. Tangchittsumran

During second quarter, all band students presented an outstanding Winter Concert on December 6. On January 26, **Concert Band Blue** hosted 90 fifth grade band students from Randolph, Fleet, Hoffman-Boston, and Long Branch Elementary Schools. They performed a concert, tutored their peers, participated in sectionals & rehearsals, and then performed a second concert alongside their 5th grade counterparts! While this event showcased the 6th grade band students, ALL TJMS Band students participated by making name tags, ushering students as they arrived, assisting with Band Buddies peer coaching, and demonstrating instruments.

Concert Band Gold selected solos from the "Standard of Excellence Festival Solos" book. They are learning their pieces with the assistance of MakeMusic Cloud (formerly SmartMusic) and will present recitals in class on February 9 (Period 1) and February 10 (Period 3.) **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 non-transposed major scales. Symphonic Band will perform at the Wakefield High School Pre-Assessment Concert on Wednesday, March 1 and the VBODA District 12 Middle School Band Assessment on Saturday, March 11 at Kenmore Middle School.

Design

Family and Consumer Sciences - 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.



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 & Information Science - Mr. J. Anderson

Yearbook - grade 8 students developed proficiency in applying principles of layout and design in completing page spread assignments using industry-standard application software. The staff also completed the first 35 pages of the yearbook that will be delivered in early June.

Digital Input Technology - grade 7 students used photoshop to design magazine covers as well as album covers for their favorite artists. The student's then used some of those skills to edit their own movies concerning a topic in their community that was interesting to them.

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, dressed 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 12 were accepted into the Junior Honors Orchestra. A large group of 7th and 8th graders prepared the audition for the Honors orchestra and 13 were accepted. We had one student accepted to the District 12 Orchestra. The TJMS Orchestras are getting ready for 5th grade recruitment concerts District XII Assessment at Marshall High School.

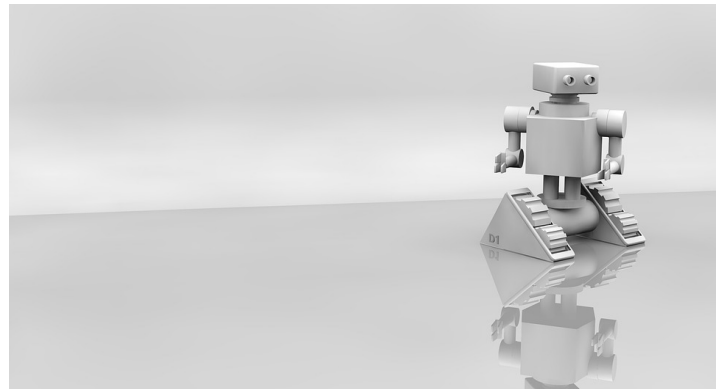
Chorus - Mr. Banach

During the second quarter, chorus students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades performed a successful Winter Concert on December 13. After these performances, students continued their study of music literacy through reflection, vocabulary and sight singing. Twelve students represented TJMS in the Arlington Honors Chorus in January and six students represented TJMS in the District Honors Choir in February in Herndon. Chorus students in 7th and 8th grade performed at the Washington Liberty Pyramid Concert on January 17 and are preparing to be judged at their District Assessment (our version of the SOL) taking place Saturday, March 17 in McLean. Finally, a small group of TJMS students will perform "Lift Every Voice and Sing" at the school board meeting on Feb 2 in honor of Black History Month.

Design Tech - Computers grade 6 students completed their typing requirements for the course. The students also took apart old computers, labeled the parts, then put them back together. Finally, the student's learned about budgeting and used those skills to create a "dream vacation" to a destination of their choice.

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 writing programs that can make decisions based on testing conditions as true or false. We also demonstrated how programs can repeat code, making incremental changes, until a condition becomes false or loop a specific number of times.



Robotics - In second period, we began our Electronics unit. Students are building circuits and demonstrating understanding of Ohm's law by designing circuits to solve real world problems. Meanwhile, first period moved to 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.

Photo source: pixbay.com