



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

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

JEFFERSON MS **ib** LEARNER PROFILE

This February 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.](#)

Student-Led Conferences



Student-led conferences were on Friday, March 3 with TA teachers. In addition to talking about the successes and challenges of their second quarter grades, students had to reflect on their approaches to learning skills. One area of greatest need is self-management skills. Our Yellow Jackets could use help managing their time. A great practice for all of students to get in the habit of checking their Canvas Calendar everyday so they are aware of upcoming assignments and can plan accordingly. Finally, students were able to focus on service learning or Community Project reflections.

Individuals and Societies: Understanding Concepts



On February 9, author and Consultant Julie Stern taught TJMS Civics and Geography students how to make conceptual understandings in different subject areas. She showed students how they could attain, connect, and

transfer relevant concepts to new contexts. Using inquiry to unlock big ideas and apply them in different contexts is critical to life long learning.

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: Taking Action

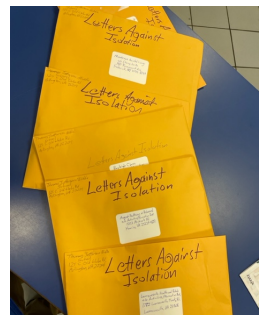


As we move into the 3rd quarter, 8th graders have made significant progress on their Community Project. More than 98% of 8th graders have started their community project. More than 50% of students have completed the investigation phase of their Community Project. We have plans to follow up with those students who have not yet completed it.

The next step is for students to complete their proposal for the Community Project. This means students need to map out the times and dates they will take the actions necessary to support the community they chose.

Source: pixbay.com

Global Goals and Service Learning



Last month, we focused on our partnership with "Letters Against Isolation" in assigning letters to write to lonely seniors in retirement homes. After a quality control, we were able to mail 138 letters to five different retirement homes across the country. Furthermore, our students were able to write letters or cards of support to students and staff at Wakefield High school to encourage them in these challenging times.

Student-Led Service



After the devastating earthquakes that hit Turkey and Syria, a few students asked that TJMS hold fundraisers as a school. And with donations during and a bake sale we raised \$242 for Save the Children.

Student Council Advisory (SCA) Update



The Student Council Advisory hosted a well-attended and exciting Valentine's Day Dance on Feb 13. Students enjoyed soda, snacks, pizza and dancing. It was our first dance in three year and was a big hit among most of the students.

