



# Thomas Jefferson Middle School

## *IB MYP October Newsletter*

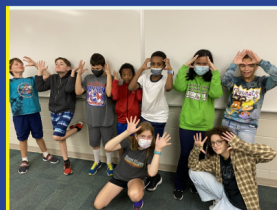
*Learning together to understand and improve ourselves, our futures, and our world.*



### LeLearner Profile Attribute of the Month: Open-Minded

#### OPEN-MINDED

We celebrate our own cultures and the values and traditions of others. We listen to different views and grow from experience.



JEFFERSON MS LEARNER PROFILE

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.](#)

### Principal's Update

#### Gifted Services Information Night

The TJMS gifted services information night will be held on Wednesday, November 15th at 6:30. The meeting will take place virtually on Microsoft Teams (link below). Included in the presentation will be information about the role of the Advanced Academics Coach, the APS talent development model, intensified classes, cluster grouping, curriculum for advanced learners, Young Scholars, and a snapshot of advanced learning at TJMS. Below is a short video for parents to watch in advance. Thank you.

[Teams Link November 15th @6:30](#)

[Advanced Academics Snapshot Video](#)

#### Final Push for Poinsettias, Wreaths, and Honeybaked Hams from Jefferson!

Get your poinsettia order in by November 10th! Also, holiday wreaths and Honey Baked Hams! Help us raise \$5000.00 for families in need during the holiday season! All the info can be found here:

<https://jefferson.apsva.us/post/holiday-poinsettias-and-wreaths-have-returned/>

Questions or concerns? [jeremy.siegel@apsva.us](mailto:jeremy.siegel@apsva.us)

### An IB Policies Explained



One of the central themes for IB schools is the need to create a positive school culture. Effective policies that define the roles and responsibilities of all community members are critical to building a positive culture. The roles for teachers, students and staff should be clearly defined and shared with the

community. The four required policies by the IB are: [Academic Integrity](#), [Assessment](#), [Inclusion](#) and [Language](#). Each policy should be developed by a variety of stakeholders. This year we will review and update each policy. We will begin with Academic Integrity since referencing the work of others is a critical skill students need to learn, especially with the widespread use of Artificial Intelligence.

Source: [pixbay.com](http://pixbay.com)

### Social Emotional Learning and Approaches to Learning

Each school year students are provided with the chance to learn new things, meet new people, explore new ways to overcome challenges, and set new short/long term goals. These are all social-emotional learning skills and competencies that teens continue to



develop as they grow. Each week TJMS students join staff in learning circles focused on strengthening their understanding of social-emotional tools that can be utilized in their everyday lives. As an IB MYP school, we align these social-emotional competencies with Approaches to Learning skills teaching students to not only think about their learning, but understand how these skills are embedded throughout all learning

Source: [pixbay.com](http://pixbay.com)

### Community Project



This year with the Community Project we are doing something new, with a Community Project Day of Action on Tuesday, November 23 between 10am-noon. We will be partnering with Phoenix Bikes, Eco-Action, and a dozen other Arlington organizations to promote student interests in ways they can help the community. Students will rank

choice field trip or guest speaker options based on their interests.

Students will be assigned one of their top three options. About half the students will meet with representatives of nonprofits in Arlington, the other half will tour the facilities. Students will get a chance for hands-on learning and to ask questions about the work these organizations do

[. Learn more here.](#) Source: [pixbay.com](http://pixbay.com)

### Authentic Assessment



Our Design Family and Consumer Sciences students are back at it again, with the International Pizza competition. Students created pizzas inspired by South Korea, Cuba, Honduras, Morocco, El Salvador, and Egypt. The judges (administrators, teachers, counselors) had a very difficult task in determining the best pizza. The challenge is that in every class period students cooked creative, delicious, and incredibly flavorful pizzas. Congratulations to Ms. Boda for teaching students so well.

### Student Council Advisory



Our SCA has been hard at work planning a month of giving for November. We are hosting a food drive with AFAC and many TAs are collecting toys/supplies for kids who may not otherwise get anything for the holidays.

### Upcoming Dates:

- November 10, Veterans Day (no school)
- November 21, Community Project Field Trip
- November 22-34, Thanksgiving Break!

# THOMAS JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

## ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Regular school attendance is important for academic success. In Virginia, school attendance is required and monitored as part of Virginia's Compulsory School Attendance Law.

### ABSENCES

**1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> UNEXCUSED DAYS** = Attendance Assistant provides automatic call home.

**3<sup>rd</sup> UNEXCUSED DAY** = Attendance Assistant mails a copy of the 3-day letter to families and provides copies to school social worker, counselor and administrator.

The counselor checks in with the student.

**4<sup>th</sup> UNEXCUSED DAY** = Attendance Assistant notifies the grade level administrator who checks in with the student.

**5<sup>th</sup> UNEXCUSED DAY** = Attendance Assistant mails a copy of the 5-day letter to parent/guardian, Social Worker follows up after the 5-day letter with a phone call and request for attendance plan meeting with parent/guardian.

**6<sup>th</sup> UNEXCUSED DAY** = Social Worker, Administrator, School Counselor meet, review the attendance plan, and consider other resources for the family.

**9-10<sup>th</sup> UNEXCUSED DAY** = Social Worker schedules a conference with a Court Diversion Specialist.

**After the 10th UNEXCUSED DAY**, Social Worker and Administrator consult with Court Diversion Specialists about Child in Need of Support (CHINS) and court.

[https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/AZQJ6Q4B9B3D/\\$file/I-5.1.30%20PIP-1%20Attendance.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/AZQJ6Q4B9B3D/$file/I-5.1.30%20PIP-1%20Attendance.pdf)

### UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM CLASS/SKIPPING

1. TEACHER CONTACTS PARENT/GUARDIAN AND GRADE LEVEL COUNSELOR & REFERS TO ADMIN, ONE DAY AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION ASSIGNED
2. TEACHER REFERS STUDENT TO ADMIN, TWO DAY AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION ASSIGNED
3. ADMIN AND GRADE LEVEL COUNSELOR MEET WITH STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN, IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION
4. SATURDAY SCHOOL ASSIGNED/IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION