



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IB MYP February Newsletter

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



Social Emotional Learning

No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship (Dr. James Comer). Building relationships is one of the most essential factors in establishing a strong foundation for learning. This month our social-emotional learning goal is to teach students how to create new **Relationship Skills** so that they may explore ways to:

- Communicate effectively
- Develop positive relationships with peers and adults
- Strengthen cultural competence
- Practice teamwork and collaborative problem-solving
- Resolve conflicts constructively while restoring connections
- Resist negative social pressures
- Explore their positive leadership skills in class and with classmates
- Seek and/or offer help to others when needed

Our **SEL Lessons** and **SEL Circles** engage our Yellowjackets in *"developing relationships among students, staff, families, and the greater school community to support students' personal and academic growth"* (TJMS Values).

Take a look at [this video](#) about Social Awareness and Relationship Skills students can explore at home.

Here is a [daily check-in](#) that you can do with your child each day.

Principal's Update

Greetings TJMS families!

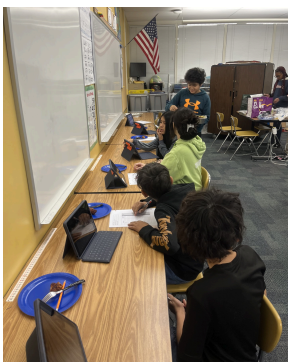
The biennial **Your Voice Matters @ APS** survey strengthens APS's commitment to continuous improvement, aligns with the goals of the newly adopted APS Strategic Plan, and helps to shape school and department action plans that focus on key priority areas.

A survey link was emailed to the guardian listed as Primary Email/Primary Guardian in the ParentVue system. Primary guardians should complete one survey per school, with the oldest child in mind.

All individual responses are confidential and are maintained by our third-party vendor, Panorama Education. Individual responses are not shared with APS staff at schools or division level offices. Data is only broken down into demographic subgroups that include ten or more respondents to protect confidentiality.

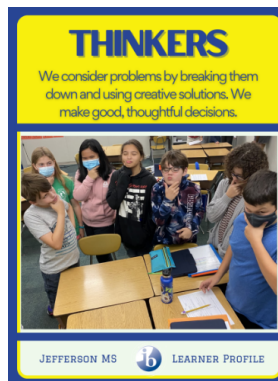
The **Your Voice Matters @ APS survey** closes next Friday, March 22, 2024. We want to make certain every TJMS student, staff member, and parent/guardian is heard through this survey. To that end, I am asking all TJMS parents/guardians to please complete the survey before the deadline.

Math 7: Authentic Assessment



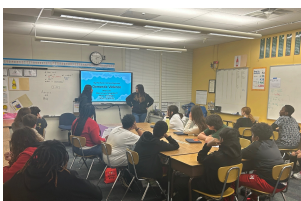
On February 9, author, and Consultant Julie Stern taught TJMS Civics and Geography students how to make conceptual understandings in different subject areas. She showed students how they could attain, connect, and transfer relevant concepts to new contexts. Using inquiry to unlock big ideas and apply them in different contexts is critical to lifelong learning.

Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: Thinker



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.](#)

Community Project: Taking Action



This month our 8th graders are taking action on their service-learning part of the Community Project. We have 8th graders teaching 7th graders about the dangers of domestic violence and how to recognize health/unhealthy relationships. We have bake sales, food donation drives and other activities getting underway. The key is for students to do something they enjoy while helping others. Also, we want students to take photos as they complete the work. Source: [pixbay.com](#)

Sciences: Outdoor Lab



From January 2-17 (with 1 day rescheduled for March 4) 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. Some students got to hold pet snakes.

