

TJMS Rising 6th Grade Course Selection 2024

Course Request Forms this year will be digital. Please submit **no later than**
Feb 23, 2024

Ms. Burton will be visiting the elementary school starting January 22nd.

To access the Digital Course Request Form, you must use your student's information. Students may access it here OR through Canvas.

If you would like to view the Spanish version of the CRF, see on Canvas.

Further Information about selecting courses

[Counseling Website](#)

- **Course Request Presentation:** [Ms. Burton](#)
- **Course Descriptions:** [Program of Studies](#)
- **APS Math Progression Charts**
- **Elective Options:** [Video](#)
- **Intensified Classes Information:** [APS Info](#)

***Please note: If your student would like to attend these high schools below, they must have these Math courses by their 8th grade year:**

- **Thomas Jefferson HS STEM: Geometry Int.**
- **Washington Liberty HS IB Program: Algebra I**

Frequently Asked Questions

For questions not listed below please reach out to Ms. Burton via canvas message,
Jasmine.Burton@apsva.us

English Learner Counselor, Ms. Ana Rodriguez, (EL 1-4) Ana.Rodriguez@apsva.us

Sra. De León (Especialista Bilingüe de Recursos para las Familias) al [703-228-5890](tel:703-228-5890) O [571-481-7222](tel:571-481-7222)

What is the difference between an intensified course and a course that is not listed as intensified?

Intensified course offerings for Social Studies, English, and Science in middle school is a new initiative adopted by Arlington Public Schools. Intensified courses are the same course content but go over the topics covered with more “depth and complexity.”

Any student can register for an intensified version of a class and no teacher recommendation is required. However, if you are not sure if an intensified course is right for your child, feel free to reach out to the teacher who currently teaches your child in that subject for more perspective.

Because this is such a new initiative from APS to have intensified course offerings in English, social studies and science for middle school, some of what this will mean is still being articulated. However, if you are not sure about choosing an intensified class, please look at the descriptions of the course offerings in the [program of studies](#), which will give more specific outlines of the differences between each class

How much time do I have in between classes? What if I’m late?

Currently students have 3 minutes in between classes. Because most of your classes are in the same hallway, this is usually more than enough time. As long as you are doing your best to get to class on time you will not get in trouble for being late!

What do I do if I get lost?

There will always be a lot of adults close by to ask for help. We will spend time at the beginning of the year making sure you know how to get to your classes. Many of you will have your History, English, Reading and Science right next to each other in your Team’s hallway.

What Is the gifted program like in middle school?

For each subject that a student is designated gifted, they will be placed in a class with several other students with that designation. Projects will be differentiated. Other extension opportunities will be provided by our Gifted Resource Teacher throughout the year. For specific questions please reach out to Megan Detweiler at Megan.Detweiler@apsva.us

What Is the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme?

All students at Thomas Jefferson are part of the IB MYP which is a framework for learning that

focuses on international-mindedness, service-learning, and citizenship. More information about the program can be found here: <https://jefferson.apsva.us/ib-programme/> (Links to an external site.)

What are Teams? When will I know what Team I am on? How are Teams determined?

There are 3 Sixth Grade Teams: the Dolphins, the Owls and the Stingrays. These teams will each have a little more than 100 students. A team of teachers work together on this team so you will get to know the teachers and students in your team well. We try to balance the teams so there are approximately the same number of students on each team. We also try to make sure that students will have students who went to the same elementary school on their team so that there are some familiar faces! You will get a letter the week before school starts that tells you which Team you are on and who your TA is. You will start your day with your TA who will give you your schedule, give you a tour of the school and make sure you know everything you need to know!

What Is ACT II?

ACT II is what we call classes that are offered after school. You earn a grade in these classes and attendance is taken. We usually offer Chorus, Drama, Technology Education and Computers afterschool, but it could change every semester. Students will get information about these classes a few weeks after the school year starts.

How do I find out what sports, clubs and ACT II classes will be offered? How do I join?

Parents and students can find all of this information in the Activity Tab on our website: <https://jefferson.apsva.us/> We also share this information on announcements posted on our webpage. Mr. Siegel, our Activities Coordinator, will provide information at lunch and reminders on morning and afternoon announcements. These will begin after the school year starts and instructions for how to sign up will be provided at that time.