



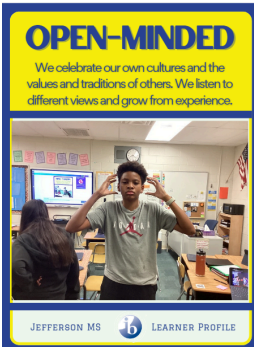
Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IB MYP October Newsletter

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



LeLearner Profile Attribute of the Month: Open-Minded



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. Our student and staff winners are: 8th Grade - Ainhara Reyes Lucumi, 8th Grade Kaitlyn Lehn, 8th Grade - Namuun Tsogbayar, Dolphins - Caroline Albert, Dragons - Eyob Berhanu, Monarchs - Samira Hussein, Owls - Eliza Phillips Mandaville, Penguins - James

"Tennyson" Crouch, Stingrays - Eliana Parada. [See the larger poster.](#)

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](#)

Community Project



This year with the Community Project we are doing something new, with a Community Project Day of Action on Tuesday, November 26 between 10am-noon. We will be partnering with Phoenix Bikes, Eco-Action, and 14 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](#)

Principal's Update

APS is eligible for federal Impact Aid grants based on the number of military and federal connected families in Arlington, which includes military families, federally connected families, and families living on military bases. The grants from these programs will become part of our general operating budget. They are critical to ensuring that students receive an excellent education.

APS will open a brief survey for Federal Impact Aid in [ParentVUE](#) to identify federally connected students. The Federal Impact Aid Survey will be available for APS families to complete online November 14, 2024 – January 10, 2025. Families without ParentVUE can request a paper copy of the survey from their child's school.

It is critical that ALL families in APS fill out the form, whether they are federally connected or not. Our eligibility for the funds is based in part on community participation in the survey. Please complete one form for each child in your household in ParentVUE.

Your support will help APS secure funding that we are eligible for based on our students in families who meet those criteria.

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](#)