

# WOODLAND HILLS 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE PROGRAM FOR GIFTED STUDENTS



*Course Catalog 2021-2022*

*This catalog is provided to outline the **proposed** gifted course offerings for the 2020-2021 school year. Gifted options are **subject to change**; additional options may be offered throughout the year as opportunities arise, and other options may be eliminated due to unforeseen circumstances.*

*\* Events with this symbol beside them may progress beyond the local level to a state, regional, or national level. If a qualifying student decides to participate in competitions beyond the local level, some costs may be incurred by the student's parents/guardians and a parent/guardian may need to transport and accompany the student to the event.*

## LANGUAGE AND PERFORMING ARTS

**THEATER APPRECIATION PERFORMANCES** – A series of four/five performances offered through Pittsburgh Musical Theater and the Pittsburgh CLO, including workshops before the performance and discussion groups following the performance. Students are asked to help defray the cost of the programs with a fee of approximately \$50. Participation in these events typically take place throughout the fall, winter, and spring.

**PPT-SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION**– Students will prepare a chosen monologue or scene for the Pittsburgh Public Theater's Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Competition. Coaching sessions may be conducted in January, and the competition occurs in early February at the O'Reilly Theater. Contestants present their pieces on the Public's main stage in front of a panel of judges and those who advance to the final round of the contest have the opportunity to perform at the Showcase of Finalists. Preparation for this event takes place throughout the fall and winter, with competition typically in February.

**ESSPA CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST**- Students prepare a polished writing piece to be entered into competition with thirteen local school districts. ESSPA includes both prose and poetry categories. Students should remember that if they register for this contest, they must prepare for their entry in the fall/winter, and turn in a piece of creative writing by the due date, typically in February.

## VISUAL ARTS

**ART CHALLENGES**-Students will have the opportunity to participate in local, state, and national art competitions available in the upcoming school year. All products will include a research component and written summary about the piece. Previous competitions have included the River Sweep Poster Contest, the Pennsylvania State Fish Art Contest, Scholastic Art Contests, the Let's Clear the Air Poster Contest, and the National Energy Technology Laboratory Earth Day Poster Contest. Participation in these art

challenges will be yearlong, and students will be expected to complete a minimum of two challenges during the school year.

**DOODLE FOR GOOGLE CONTEST** – Students will use their imagination to create a Google Doodle that is based on what inspires them. Students may work with any artistic materials they choose, but the doodle will be submitted electronically. Doodles are judged based on artistic merit, creativity, and theme communication. Preparation and participation in this event typically takes place in the winter, with a due date at the end of February.

**ARTIST STUDY**- Students will choose an artist to study and practice artistic techniques in the style of the artist that was selected. The student must complete a research project about the artist and at least two pieces of art. Artist choice should occur in the fall/winter with a final project presented in the spring.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

**AIU HISTORY BOWL** – Students will attend a competition sponsored by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) at Heinz History Center in the fall. Teams compete in hands-on activities in order to explore the history of the Pittsburgh region. Preparation and participation in this event typically takes place in the fall.

**\*NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC GEO CHALLENGE**- In the fall of 2021, National Geographic will be reintroducing the Geo Challenge competition on a global scale. It will enable more young people in countries around the world to generate solutions and take action toward solving global problems. Students that choose to participate in the Geo Challenge will research global issues and collaborate to develop solutions. In the past, this team-based competition has been time-intensive, with preparation throughout the fall and winter, with a project due in early spring.

**STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**- Students will explore the continents and cultures of the world through research, independent studies, and project development. Sixth grade students will focus on the continent of Asia. Preparation for this project takes place throughout the school year, with a final project due in the spring.

## **SCIENCE**

**PHIPPS CONSERVATORY FAIRCHILD CHALLENGE** - The Fairchild Challenge is a multidisciplinary, standards-based environmental education outreach program designed to give middle school (grades 6-8) students an opportunity to creatively shine. It invites students to investigate environmental issues, devise imaginative and effective responses to these issues, and take action to address them. The Fairchild Challenge offers a menu of interdisciplinary challenges that empower young people to engage in civic life and encourage them to become energetic and knowledgeable members of their communities. Participation in the Fairchild Challenge is yearlong, with approximately five different challenges total.

**\*K'NEX**– This is a hands-on introductory approach to engineering, architecture and design in which students use K'Nex materials to create various structures that are designed to solve a problem in our world. In addition to building, they will also conduct research on the problem and

write a presentation. Students can potentially create over 100 projects. Students may also have the opportunity to participate in the K'Nex STEM Design Challenge at the AIU. Preparation and participation in this event typically takes place in the fall and winter, with competition day in March.

**SCIENCE FAIR PREPARATION (PRSEF)** – Following International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) guidelines, students work approximately 6 months to prepare a science project of their own selection in biology, chemistry, physics or another science oriented discipline. The project will include extensive research and lab work. Students will also be required to write a scientific paper detailing their project. Preparation for this event occurs throughout the fall and winter. Projects will be entered into the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (PRSEF) competition during the month of March.

**ESSPA SCIENCE BOWL** – This tournament will allow students to demonstrate their knowledge in the various fields of science. Depending on the number of students signed up, there may be a qualifying test to attend the tournament. Preparation for this event occurs in the late winter/early spring with competition held in April.

**JUNIOR ENVIROTHON-** Students will prepare for the Allegheny County Junior Envirothon Competition. Students will be challenged to think critically about the natural world and their roles in it. Preparation for the competition will activities in aquatic ecology, forestry, soil and land use, wildlife, and current event environmental issues. Preparation and participation in this event typically takes place in the spring.

## **MATHEMATICS**

**ESSPA CALCULUS-SOLVE** - The Calcu-Solve competition consists of four-member teams working to solve higher-order mathematics problems. Students that score the highest on a placement test may participate at the Calcu-solve competition. Preparation for this event typically takes place in the fall with competition day occurring in November.

**ESSPA EQUATIONS** – Equations is a game of creative mathematics involving various operations ranging from simple addition to exponentiation. Students will practice basic computational and algebraic skills and receive instruction on exponentiation, roots and radicals as they learn and play the Equations game. Highest scoring students may attend the competition sponsored by ESSPA (Eastern Suburbs Special Program Association). Preparation and participation in this event typically takes place in the winter, with competition held in early February.

**PENNSYLVANIA MATH LEAGUE-** Students learn advanced problem solving skills while preparing for the annual Pennsylvania Math League contest. Preparations for this competition involve a series of approximately five exams covering various areas of mathematics. Each exam will have a follow up class where we will discuss possible solutions for each exam question. Preparation for this contest is throughout the fall/winter with the contest occurring at the end of February.

**MATH 24-**Students will learn strategies necessary to be successful in the Math 24 game. It is a challenging mathematical game designed to show the relationship between numbers through attempting to add, subtract, multiply or divide four numbers to equal 24. The students will work their way through single digits, double digits, integers and variables. The highest scoring students may qualify for a Math 24 competition sponsored by the AIU, which typically occurs in the spring.

**CHESS** – Students will play chess cooperatively in the gifted classroom in order to begin or improve tactics and strategies. This course will promote the growth and development of skills in concentration, logic, decision-making, planning, and self-discipline.

**MATH GAMES**- Students will explore a variety of mathematical concepts including algebraic thinking while playing Math games which may include Equate, Math Dice, and Probability and Statistics challenges.

## **INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS**

**INDEPENDENT STUDY**-Students will select a topic of interest in an academic area and conduct an in-depth investigation which may include, but is not limited to, research, hands on explorations, video production, or presentations. The independent study will require dedicated preparation outside of school. Topics should be chosen in the fall/winter, with project completion due in the spring.

**SERVICE PROJECT**- Students involved with a service project will be responsible for researching a social issue and designing and implementing a project to help with the issue. Past projects have included: organizing food drives, fundraising for charities, supporting local animal shelters and conducting clothing drives for homeless shelters. Service project choices should be finalized in the fall/winter, with project completion due in the spring.

**\*PA INVENTION CONVENTION**- The Pennsylvania Invention Convention is designed to showcase student problem-solving, innovation, creativity, and ingenuity while making learning fun! Students are asked to find a problem to solve, investigate possible solutions, create, test, and refine a prototype, and create a video to highlight the invention. Sixth grade students will submit their video for a virtual competition in December and finalists will advance to a face-to-face state competition in February. This is a project for individual students and the work will occur at home.

**BOW SEAT OCEAN AWARENESS** – This contest is done independently and focuses on Ocean Awareness through art-making and creative communication. Students will explore their relationship to a changing world and become advocates for positive change. Open to students aged 11-18. Submissions are accepted in visual art, film, music, poetry, prose, and interactive multimedia. A completed project will be due in early June of the school year.