

Mount Arlington Public School District Gateway-Enrichment Programs

Brief Description

Under the "Enrichment for All" model, the Gifted-and-Talented Program provides students with opportunities to explore real world issues using a variety of interdisciplinary projects designed to address career and workplace readiness and to foster civic and sustainability awareness. In addition, opportunities for students to explore and develop talents in the areas of leadership, the creative arts, and physical wellness will be offered to all students. The program provides a mix of instructional models including in-class differentiation, special projects based on interest and talents, multi-age groupings, and pull-out instruction.

Overarching Goals/Course Objectives:

- The students will develop ideas through the cognitive thinking process
- The students will develop alternate written and oral communication skills to effectively relate one's ideas to others.
- The students will be exposed to creative arts, using a variety of stimuli and opportunities outside the school community
- The students will develop an awareness and appreciation of their ability to be creative at ever-increasing levels in a risk-free environment.
- The students and teachers will develop a process to evaluate students' accomplishment in the program
- The students and teachers will develop the ability to use advanced technologies as a resource and for global communication and collaboration
- The teacher will adapt any of the stated lessons to a level suitable for the age and mental acuity of the participating youngsters

Differentiated Instruction:

The Gifted and Talented curriculum relies on a range of strategies for differentiated instruction; such as cooperative learning, multi-age grouping, and addressing multiple intelligences.

Teachers may vary whole-class instruction by teaching small groups or individual students. Students can be grouped based on readiness, interest, or learning profile, and groups do not necessarily have to be homogeneous. A teacher might group students with a similar readiness level (e.g., for reading instruction) or with a dissimilar one (e.g., to discuss a book they all love).

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The curriculum also uses "tiered activities," where the teacher keeps the concepts and skills the same for all students but provides "routes of access" that vary in terms of complexity, abstractness, and open-endedness. Other strategies include using stations, compacting, and agendas.

Interdisciplinary Instruction:

The Gateway curriculum allows the access to other curriculum subject matter that is different from its own content. Using these resources, teachers can conceptualize and construct instructional lessons which help students understand important and interesting relationships between the disciplines.

Giving students opportunities to explore interconnections among the subject areas they are studying has many advantages. Interdisciplinary instruction adds meaning and relevance to learning as students discover relationships between disciplines. New perspectives are developed which help students construct a more integrated web of knowledge. It also increases students' understanding the information and ideas they already possess.

Enrichment PBLs:

Applying the Enrichment-for-All Model, the curriculum also provides for several project based learning activities designed using the Buck Institute PBL model to provide students with opportunities for career exploration.

The Buck Institute for Education highlights how PBL transforms students by inspiring them to think differently about themselves as learners, collaborators, and leaders. PBL prepares students for academic, personal, and career success and it readies young people to rise to the challenges of their lives and the world they will inherit.

Grade 8:	Bridges to the Future
Grades 7&8:	Model UN Program
Grades 7&8:	Emergency Management Program
Grade 7:	Climate Changes and Global Warming
Grade 6-8:	Solar Car Design
Grade 5:	Powersave Energy Audit
Grade 5:	Alternative Energies & Wind Turbine Design
Grade 5:	Watershed Management & Protection
Grade 4:	Urban Planning & Stormwater Management
Grade 3:	Airport Management
Grade 1&2:	City Planning