

T.A.R.G.E.T. Board Report October 2022

There are currently eight middle school students and nine elementary students in the Holden R-III T.A.R.G.E.T. program. T.A.R.G.E.T. classes are held every Tuesday. The middle school students meet for 2½ hours in the morning in the middle school library, and elementary students meet for 2½ hours in the afternoon in the elementary building. Current T.A.R.G.E.T. students by grade:

- 2 students in grade 2
- 3 students in grade 3
- 3 students in grade 4
- 1 student in grade 5
- 5 students in grade 6
- 3 students in grade 8

T.A.R.G.E.T. students participate in activities that promote critical and creative thinking skills. Most activities focus on the higher levels of Bloom's Taxonomy - analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Activities include but are not limited to:

Verbal Team Challenges

Weighing In – Current events are often used to allow students to formulate and express their individual opinions about the event being discussed. (Gifted students often have a strong interest in and knowledge of current events.)

Cooperative Stories – Each student chooses a story title and begins writing a story. At the end of five minutes each student passes his or her story to the person on the right. This continues until every student has written a part of each story. Finally each person reads the finished story that he or she started.

Photo Search – Students are shown historical pictures. Using clues from the photos they search online to find answers to specific questions about each picture. Examples: celebration of the final spike being driven in the transcontinental railroad, the San Francisco earthquake and fire, the first Russian dog sent into space, etc.

Where in the World Is This? – Students are shown pictures of buildings, monuments, ancient ruins, geological formations, etc., from locations around the world. They search to determine the city/country where the site is located and answer questions about the site.

What Would You Choose? Why? – Two situations are presented to students. Examples: Would you rather be a garbage collector or work at a nuclear power plant? Would you rather live on the continent of Antarctica or in the Sahara Desert?

Critical Thinking Lessons – A variety of lessons are used to help students develop critical thinking skills.

Logic Puzzles – Students work to solve different types of logic puzzles including toothpick puzzles, coin puzzles, sequencing puzzles, Word Winks, etc.

Weekly Vocabulary Activity - Each week students participate in a vocabulary building activity. The SAT vocabulary list is the primary source of words for the activities.

The T.A.R.G.E.T. class also offers students the opportunity to study topics that are of interest to them. Students choose topics they personally want to study and complete Action Plans to help guide their research. After students have gathered information about their topics of interest they must complete final products that incorporate what they have learned. Students then must present their final products to an audience. After presentations students reflect on their projects, including the presentations, and evaluate themselves. Students' presentations are also evaluated by their peers. They learn how to give specific feedback that will help the presenter improve.

Students also participate in group projects selected by the teacher. Elementary students are currently producing a documentary about Powell Gardens. They have researched the history of the gardens and prepared interview questions for various Powell Gardens staff. Emily Brockhaus has assisted students in using iPads to create quality videos for this project. On October 14th students will spend the day at Powell Gardens conducting interviews and making videos at points of interest in the gardens. Videos will be edited in class to produce the final documentary.

Six of the middle school students are learning about court procedures. After learning legal terms and the process by which a trial is presented they will research the Old Drum case. Since there are no transcripts of the trial and we only know the final outcome, students will write scripts for the judge, bailiff, witnesses, and attorneys. The mock trial will be presented to a jury of their peers, and who will render a verdict. At the conclusion of this project a field trip to the courthouse in Warrensburg will be planned. Two middle school students are working on a project about the decades through music. Beginning with the 1950s they are researching each decade through 2000 and how the events of that decade influenced popular music. They will also listen to music from different genres of the decade and identify popular groups and solo artists.