



Herricks Public Schools
Education Today Knowledge Forever

HERRICKS UFSD GEMINI PROPOSAL: 2021-2022

**Presentation to the Herricks
Board of Education
June 10, 2021**

THE NEED TO REFLECT AND REVIEW



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The Gemini pause over the past year afforded an opportunity to reflect on the program in terms of identification and services. This review looked to ensure that the program goals support the district's mission statement, initiatives and community values. It is our desire that the program continues to foster 21st century skills, and responds to the developmental, academic and social-emotional needs of gifted students.

TIMELINE

January, 2021-June 2021: Monthly meetings with expert consultant to review and recommend changes to existing identification and program delivery model. Create materials to support revision and program development.

June 2021: Share with Board of Education

School Year 2021-22: Launch roll out of changes and share with relevant stakeholder groups (e.g. parent information sessions and communication; professional development opportunities for school personnel; scheduling changes; curriculum revisioning; and increased alignment)

Fall 2022: New/Revised Gemini & Schoolwide Enrichment model implemented

TEAM

Asst. Superintendent/Administration: K. Elizabeth Guercin

Elementary Principals: Brennen Bierwiler, Loren Borgese, Diana DeGiorgio

Middle School Principal: Brian McConaghy

Gemini Teachers: Michelle Berzolla, Adam Dugger, Rosemarie LaMarca

Hunter College Gifted Education Consultant: Dr. Elissa Brown

CURRENT GEMINI PROGRAM CONFIGURATION

Grades K-5: Push into classrooms, model lessons, collaborating with teachers, PLTW enrichment modules

Grades 4-5: Pull out model with identified students using interdisciplinary units of study

Grades 6-7: Science class grouping

CURRENT GEMINI MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Grade 6

- Same curriculum as Science 6
 - Life Science
 - Slightly more advanced (labs, projects)
 - More depth
- More homogeneous in regards to ability level
- Same length of period
- No co-teaching sections

Grade 7

- Same curriculum as Science 6
 - Physical Science
 - Slightly more advanced (labs, projects)
 - More depth
- More homogeneous in regards to ability level
- Same length of period
- No co-teaching sections

CURRENT PROGRESSION FOR A GEMINI STUDENT (GRADES 4-8)

Grade 3

NWEA
Renzulli
InView

Grade 4

NWEA
Renzulli
InView

Gemini

Grade 5

NWEA
Renzulli
InView

Gemini

Grade 6

Gemini Sci 6

Flex

Grade 7

Gemini Sci 7

Flex

Grade 8

No Gemini Science

Algebra
Earth Science
Electives

GEMINI PROGRAM CRITICAL QUESTIONS:

- Elementary: **Alignment** between **identification**, **program goals**, and **program model**
- Elementary: Gemini **pull out** model (grades 4-5)
- How do we ensure a **trajectory of enrichment experiences K-5**, with a more targeted program in grades 4 & 5 that extends and enriches learning beyond the regular classroom?
- No **alignment** between **elementary and middle school** programs (ELA and Math in Elementary → Science in Middle School)
 - No alignment with entrance criteria
- Impact on **MS Teaming**
 - Gemini Science distributed over multiple teams
 - Variable in child's schedule
 - Same curriculum
- No **New Entrance Opportunities**
 - New to the district
 - Growth Mindset

PROPOSED REVISIONS: LEVERAGING BEST PRACTICES



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GEMINI MISSION STATEMENT

The Herricks Gemini Program enhances the educational experiences of individual students as learners. Our goal is to foster creativity and critical, innovative thinking in the development of self-directed and meaningful citizens in an ever changing global society.

GEMINI: IDENTIFICATION

CURRENT

- NWEA Reading Assessment
- NWEA Math Assessment
- Inview Test of Cognitive Skills
- Renzulli Rating Scales

Selection is determined by a team employing a multiple criteria matrix. Selection occurs annually.

Children who do not initially meet the above criteria will be put on a "wait and watch" list and data will be reviewed the following year in order to be responsive to each child's individual needs.

PROPOSED*

- NWEA Reading Assessment
- NWEA Math Assessment
- Inview Test of Cognitive Skills
- **MODIFIED** Renzulli Rating Scales
- **Parent Inventory of Characteristics**

Selection is determined by a team employing a multiple criteria matrix. Selection occurs annually.

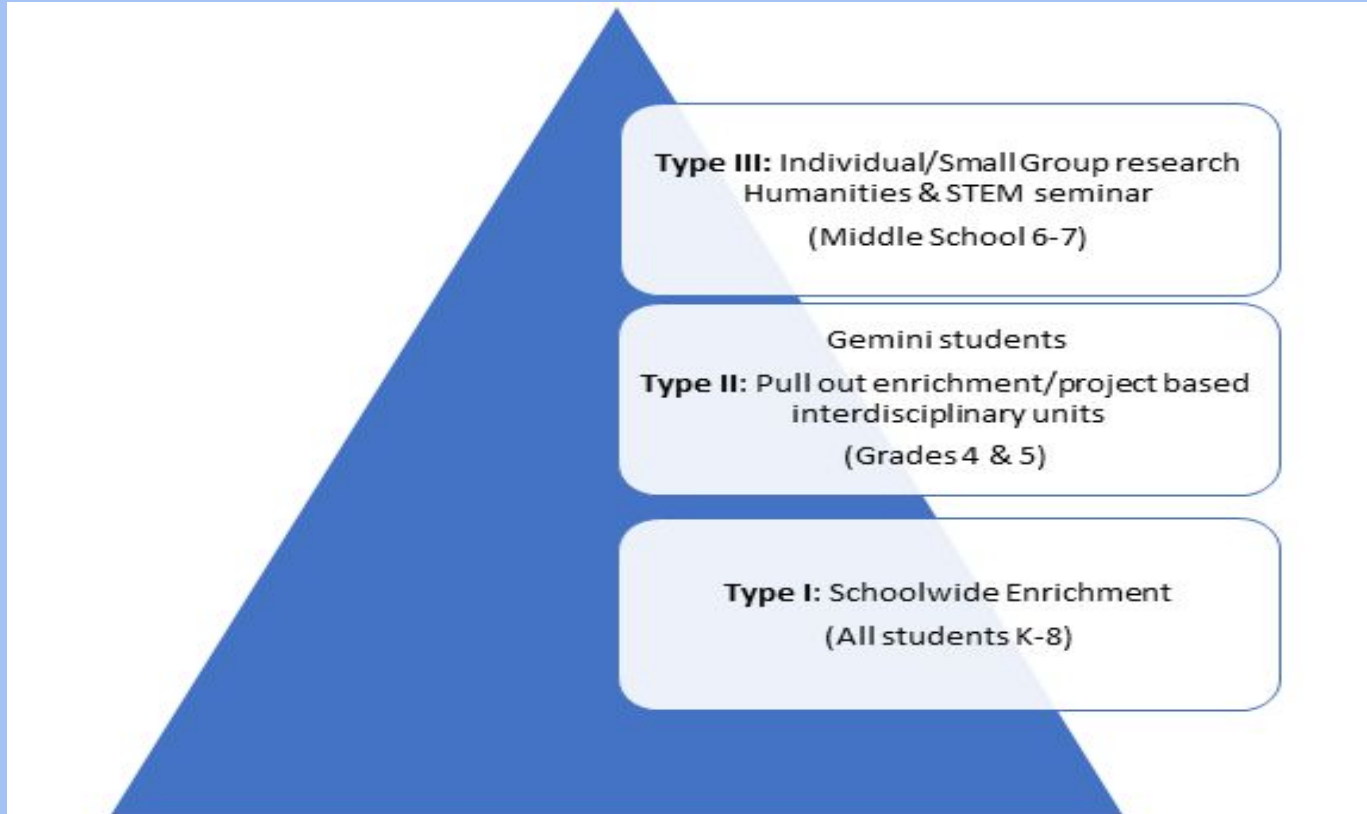
Children who do not initially meet the above criteria will be put on a "wait and watch" list and data will be reviewed the following year in order to be responsive to each child's individual needs.

New entrants to Herricks Middle School are screened after a 3 month transition period for possible inclusion in the Gemini program.

REVISED PROGRAM GOALS: K-8

- To develop creative problem-solving and divergent thinking skills
- To develop social skills of relating to others and coping effectively in social contexts
- To develop metacognitive skills that foster independent and self-directed learning
- To provide for the mastery of academic skills and content at a pace and depth appropriate to the capacity of each Gemini student.

PROPOSED K-8 ENRICHMENT SCOPE & SEQUENCE



SCHOOL-WIDE ENRICHMENT MODEL (S.E.M.)* MODIFIED FOR HERRICKS UFSD

Type I

Enrichment for All (K-8)

PLTW + non-science opportunities build classroom teachers' capacity for differentiation.

Type II

Enrichment Clusters (grades 4 & 5)

Gemini (pull out)
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or other targeted project based units of study based on students choice, abilities, skills, and interests

Type III

In-Depth Investigations Through Interdisciplinary Seminars (grades 6-7)

6th grade: Humanities
7th grade: STEM

*8th grade: Regents level courses and electives

PROPOSED GRADES K-5

- Gemini teachers work collaboratively with teachers, through model lessons, providing enrichment (Type I) through a push in model, serving as a resource in supporting teachers and parents, and building capacity of classroom teachers for differentiating instruction
- Grades 4 & 5: Targeted interdisciplinary units of study to extend and enrich learning by augmenting classroom experiences through focusing on research skills, problem solving, and product development (Type II)

HERRICKS PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE 6 Cs

The Herricks GEMINI program is designed to meet the needs of the gifted students by providing enrichment and using teachers as mentors and facilitators to support the intelligence and the needs of the students to foster independent study.

The GEMINI program will focus on higher level thinking skills and be connected to the 6 Cs:

- Communication
- Confidence
- Critical Thinking
- Creative Innovation
- Compassion
- Collaboration



ELEMENTARY PROGRAM SEM TYPE 1



- K-5 Project Lead the Way (PLTW) STEM Enrichment for all students
- 6-week push in program for students
- Units may include: coding, inherited traits, animal adaptations, structure and function through engineering
- Utilize the engineering design process to solve problems



ELEMENTARY PROGRAM SEM TYPE II

Grade 4:

Anchored in the 6Cs Herricks Portrait of a Graduate

Communication, Confidence, Critical Thinking,
Creative Innovation, Compassion, and Collaboration

- Creativity
- Convergent vs Divergent Thinking
- News Events
- Responsive Classroom - CARES
- 21st Century Learning Space Design Project
- Culture
- Global Economics
- Quality Education
- Food Sustainability

Grade 5:

Anchored in the United Nations Sustainability Goals

- Habits of Mind
- The Global Goals
- Gender Equality
- Climate Action
- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Life Underwater
- Affordable and Clean Energy
- Global Action Projects

PROPOSED MIDDLE SCHOOL GEMINI SEMINAR: SEM TYPE III

To broaden the scope of the experience, we are proposing a new sequence starting in September 2021

- Grade 6 will no longer have a Gemini Science section
- Gemini students (as determined in elementary school) engage in weekly enrichment seminars focused on higher level thinking skills and connected to the 6 Cs of the Portrait of the Graduate.

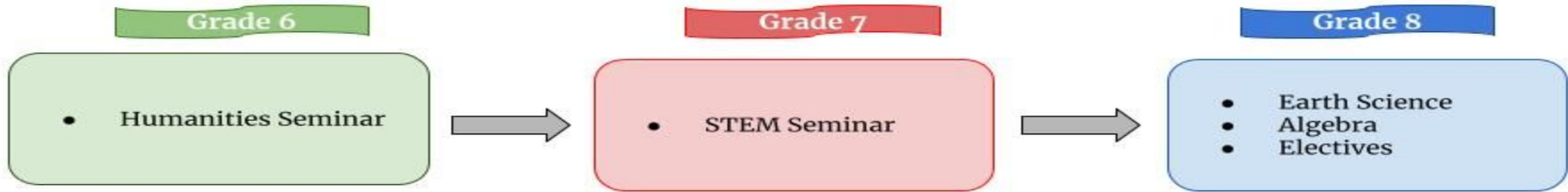
2021-2022

- Phase out Gemini Science in Grade 7
- Launch Grade 7 seminar

*Seminars would include trips, projects, guest speakers, competitions and exhibitions.

*There would be no grades.

PROPOSED MIDDLE SCHOOL GEMINI SEMINAR SEQUENCE SEM TYPE III



WHAT COULD GEMINI LOOK LIKE IN MS?

Grade 6

- Approximately 60 children
- Humanities Based
- ELA or SS Teacher
- In a classroom
- During Lunch 1x per cycle

1	2	3	4
15 Students	15 Students	15 Students	15 Students

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
12 Students	12 Students	12 Students	12 Students	12 Students

ELA Concepts/Ideas

- Mythology
- Drama
- Multicultural Lit
- Shakespeare?

SS Concepts

- Art History
- Architecture
- Regional Studies
- Sociology
- Model UN
- Model Congress

Gen. Humanities Concepts

- Current Events
- Writing
- Speech & Debate/
Public Speaking

Grade 7

- Approximately 60 children
- STEAM Based
- Math or Science Teacher
- In a classroom
- During Lunch 1x per cycle

1	2	3	4
15 Students	15 Students	15 Students	15 Students

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
12 Students	12 Students	12 Students	12 Students	12 Students

Science Concepts/Ideas

- Level 3 and Level 4
Inquiries
- Nutrition
- Physiology
- Astronomy
- Meteorology

Math Concepts

- Game Theory
- Stock Market (Game)
- Probability &
Statistics

Gen. STEM Concepts

- Research Skills
- Engineering
- Architecture
- Digital Photo

NEXT STEPS

School Year 2021-22:

- Launch roll out of changes
- Share with relevant stakeholder groups
- Host parent information sessions and communication
- Provide professional development opportunities for school personnel
- Explore scheduling changes
- Revise curriculum
- Increase alignment K-8

Fall 2022:

- New/Revised Gemini & Schoolwide Enrichment Model implemented

THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS?