



Herricks Public Schools
Education Today • Knowledge Forever

GEMINI Program & Enrichment for All Spring 2022

May 2022 Parent Information

The Need to Reflect and Review



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Over the past two years Herricks staff with an external consultant for gifted education worked on re-envisioning the Gemini program as well as the overall educational program for gifted and talented students, K-7. We were 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.



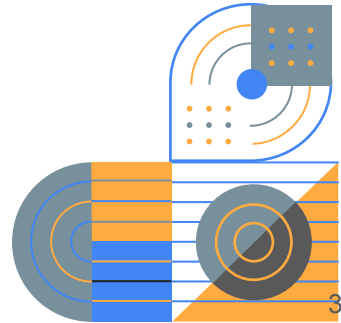
Herricks Portrait of a Graduate 6 Cs



The Herricks School District is committed to preparing our students for success today and into the future. While important, mastery of content knowledge is not sufficient in preparing our students for college and careers. In our rapidly changing world, many of the professions our students will be engaging in do not exist today. **Our focus includes the development of the skills and competencies our students will need to be prepared for the later part of the 21st Century.** As such, the district has created a Portrait of a Graduate for Herricks, which includes six essential competencies that we want our students to master before they graduate from Herricks. **The Portrait of a Graduate serves as the District's "North Star", guiding our programs through the 21st Century.**

Portrait of a Graduate 6 Cs:

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



TimeLine

January 2021-June 2022: 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 initial ideas for change with Board of Education.

School Year 2021-22: Soft launch of *Enrichment for All*, continue revisioning the identification process, monthly meetings, updating documents.

December 2021: BOE presentation.

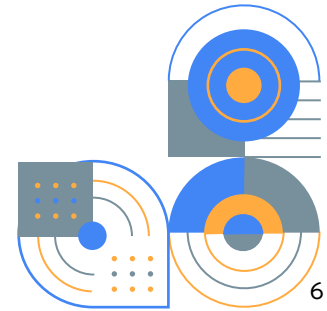
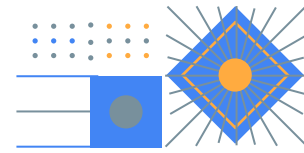
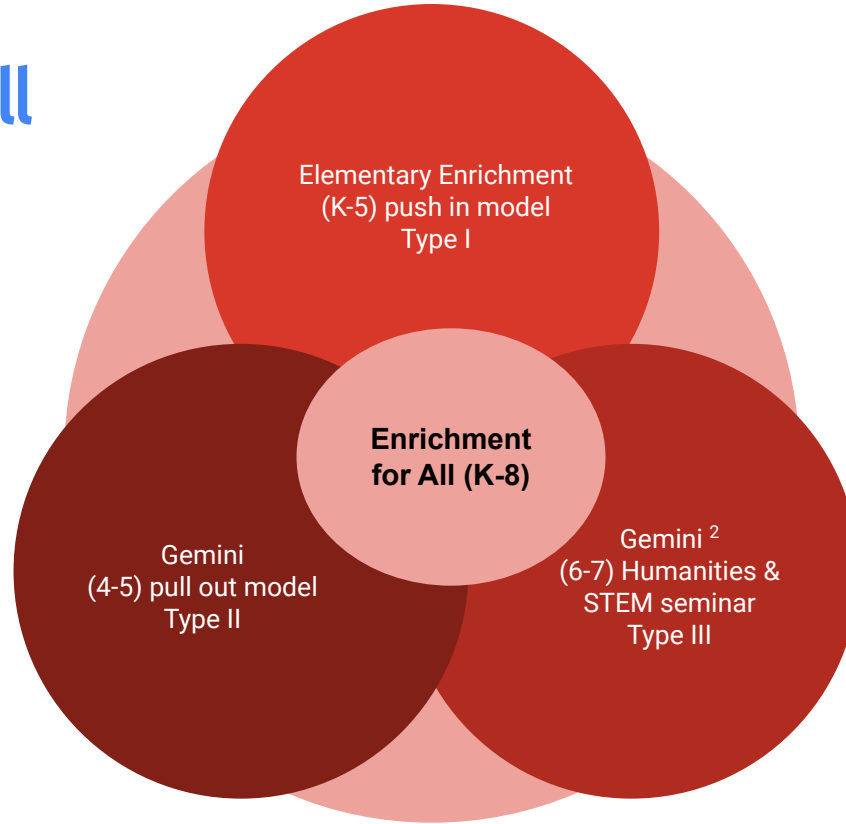
Spring 2022: Pilot new identification process; garner parent input.

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

Gemini Program Critical Considerations

- 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

Enrichment for All (K-8)



Enrichment for All (K-8)

Type I

Elementary Enrichment (K-5)

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

Type II

Gemini: 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

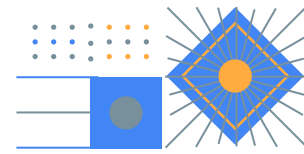
Type III

Gemini²: In-Depth Investigations Through Interdisciplinary Seminars (grades 6-7)

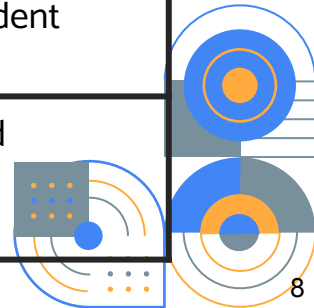
6th grade: Humanities
7th grade: STEM

*8th grade: Regents level courses and electives

Enrichment for All Program Enhancements



Elementary Enrichment (K-5) (Type I)	Gemini (4-5) (Type II)	Gemini ² (6-7) (Type III)
Gemini teachers push into general education classrooms (K-5)	Changes to identification measures and process	Middle school seminars (6th & 7th grade)
Consistency among all elementary schools	Consistency among all elementary schools (2/week)	3-4 sections/week 17-23 students
Extending and enriching general education curriculum through PLTW curriculum units & demonstration lessons	Units of study reflect 21st century skills, Herricks 6 Cs of a HS graduate and UN sustainability goals	Seminars focus on research, presenting, writing, and critical thinking in areas of student interest
Increased communication, transparency, and access	Vertical alignment to middle school Gemini ² Humanities & STEM seminars	8th grade: electives and access to Regents level of classes

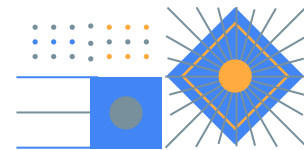


New Role of the Gemini Teacher (K-5)

Support K-5 Enrichment for All through:

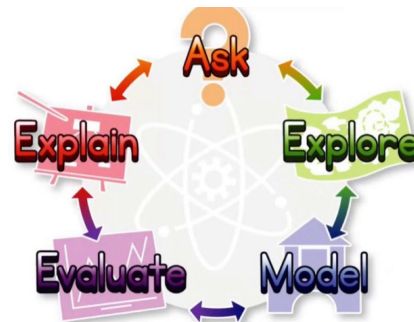
- **Collaboration** with classroom teachers to develop **Critical Thinking** opportunities within the classroom
- Push into classrooms & **facilitate lessons** to **ALL** students
- Professional development workshops for classroom teachers to explore **Creative Innovation** within the classroom
- **Communication** with families regarding students' enrichment experiences
- **Targeted enrichment** for identified Gemini students (Type II)

Type I: *Elementary Enrichment K-5*



The following are the PLTW Units that are implemented by the Gemini Teacher in each Elementary School.

- **Kindergarten-** Structure and Function Human Body
- **First Grade-** Designs Inspired By Nature
- **Second Grade-** Living Things: Diversity of Life
- **Third Grade-** Variation of Traits
- **Fourth Grade-** Organisms: Structure and Function (new for 2022-2023)
- **Fifth Grade-** Infection Detection



* A letter is sent home to families outlining the enrichment unit. Families are also provided with activities and questions they can ask their child in order to build a home-school connection.



Type I: Elementary Enrichment

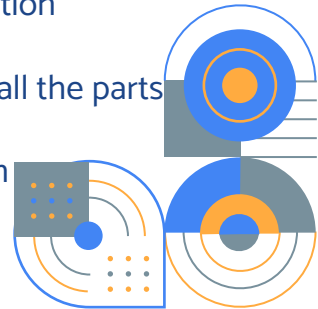


K-2, STRIVE, and Language Immersion learning all about how to keep our teeth germ free!

4th Grade students getting ready to build their vehicle and learn all about collisions!



5th Grade students becoming infection detectives by understanding all the parts of our immune system



Gemini Mission Statement

Type II *Pull Out Program*

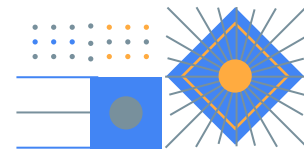
The Herricks Gemini Program enhances the educational experiences of individual students as learners. Our goal is to foster creativity and critical, innovative thinking in the development of self-directed and meaningful citizens in an ever changing global society.

Revised Gemini Program Goals Grades 4-7

- 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.

Type II: Gemini (grades 4-5)

Current Fourth Grade Gemini Units



Grade 4: Anchored in the 6Cs of Education - 21st Century Learning Skills

Ongoing Current Events Conversations

Unit 1: Self Awareness Study

Unit 2: Habits of Mind

Unit 3: 21st Century Learning Space Design Project

Unit 4: Convergent vs Divergent Thinking

Unit 5: Culture

Unit 6: Global Economics

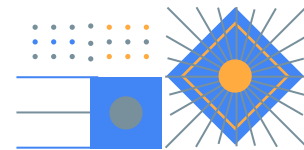
Unit 7: Quality Education

Unit 8: Food Sustainability



Type II: Gemini (grades 4-5)

Current Fifth Grade Gemini Units



Grade 5: Anchored in the United Nations Sustainability Goals

Ongoing Current Events Conversations

Unit 1: Self Awareness Study/Habits of Mind

Unit 2: Infection Detection Research

Unit 3: Sustainable Communities (developed by Smithsonian Science Education Center)

Unit 4: Climate Action

Unit 5: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Unit 6: Life Underwater

Unit 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

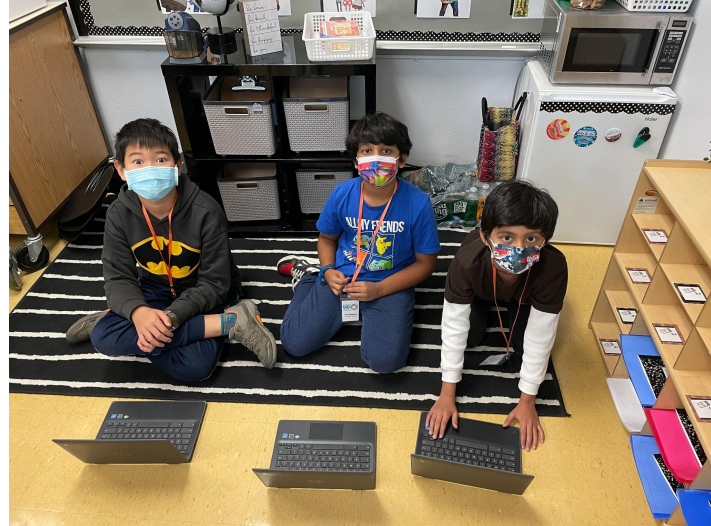
Unit 8: Global Action Projects



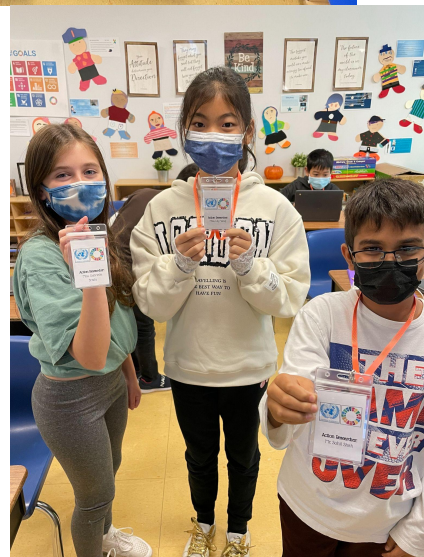
Gemini Students In Action!



4th Grade students working in partnerships on understanding how the 6Cs of 21st century education can enhance their learning.



5th Grade students transforming themselves into Action Researchers to work on tackling the Sustainable Development Goals *(SDGs)



Type III: Gemini²

Middle School Curricular Outline

GRADE 6

FLEX = Enrichment for ALL

- ★ SCHEDULED INTO STUDENT'S DAY
 - One period every other day for majority of students
 - Not-teamed
 - Students rotate at end of first semester
 - ELA, Social Studies and Science
- ★ EXAMPLES OF WORK
 - ELA
 - Book Clubs, Writing Workshops
 - Social Studies
 - News Literacy, Current Events, Research
 - Science
 - Forensics, Medical Detectives

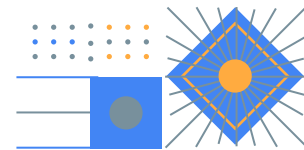
GRADE 7

FLEX = Enrichment for ALL

- ★ SCHEDULED INTO STUDENT'S DAY
 - One period every day for majority of students
 - Teamed
 - Students take two Flex classes per semester
 - ELA, Math, Social Studies and Science
- ★ EXAMPLES OF WORK
 - ELA
 - Book Clubs, Writing Workshops
 - Math
 - Math in Art, Coding
 - Social Studies
 - News Literacy, Current Events, Research, Debate
 - Science
 - Engineering

Type III: Gemini²

Middle School Curricular Outline



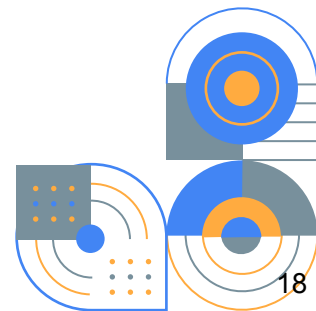
GRADE 6: Gemini Humanities Enrichment

SCHEDULED INTO STUDENT'S DAY

- ★ Two sections for students who qualify
- ★ Students assigned to Gemini during Flex enrichment periods
- ★ Meet on alternate days (Blue/Silver) for entire school year

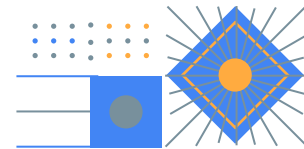
FRAMEWORKS

- ★ Changemaking
 - Understanding Ourselves/Crafting Our Identities
 - Learning the Stories of Changemakers Past and Present
- ★ Knowledge Generation
 - Consider: who we are, what we are interested in, what matters to us
- ★ Historically Responsive Literacy
 - Identity: who are we, and who do we want to be
- ★ Identifying challenges/problems
 - Project Based Learning
 - Being the change



Type III: Gemini²

Middle School Curricular Outline



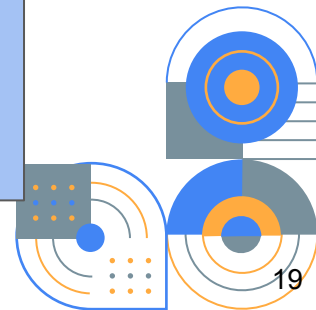
GRADE 7: Gemini STEM Enrichment

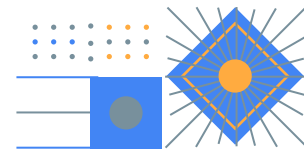
SCHEDULED INTO STUDENT'S DAY

- ★ Students assigned to Gemini during Flex enrichment periods
- ★ Meet on alternate days (Blue/Silver) for entire school year
- ★ Gemini sections align with team placement
 - Blue
 - Red
 - Green/Orange Combined

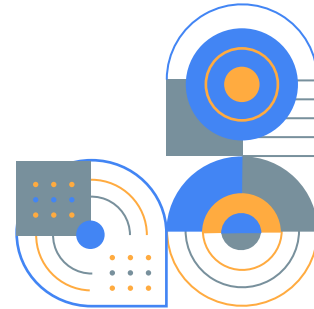
CURRICULUM

- ★ Students will work on research and designing experiments
- ★ Engineering Tasks
- ★ Scientific Method & Engineering Design Process
- ★ Project Based Learning opportunities
- ★ Presentation Skills
- ★ Field Trips

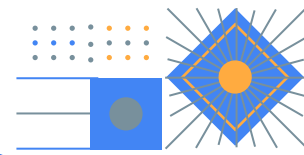




Type III: Middle School Gemini² Trip Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center



Recommendations for Gemini Admissions



NWEA universal screener beginning in spring of third grade and continuing in spring of grades 4 and 5

If 90%ile on one measure, AND 80%ile on the other, process continues

If NOT in 90%ile on one measure AND 80%ile on the other, process ends

Administer CogAT using local norms, complete teacher and parent rating scales

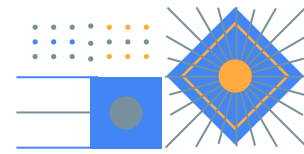
Students may be re-tested the following year, if the student requalifies

Qualifies for Gemini Services

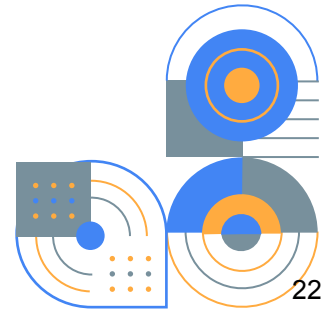
Doesn't qualify for Gemini services



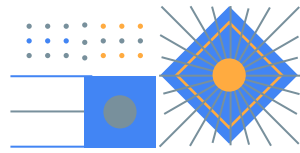
Responsive Changes to Screening and Identification



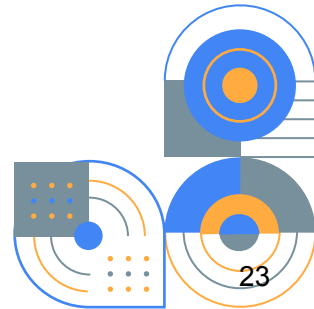
- NWEA is a screener that allows a student to move forward in the Gemini identification process if threshold is met. The minimum scores for the threshold were lowered to allow a larger pool of candidates (inclusion).
- CogAT allows for individual strengths to be demonstrated in verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal sections.
- Employing local norms allows Herricks students to be compared against their peers.
- Teacher rating scale has been modified for ease of use and reduced to 1 teacher rating scale completed by current teacher.
- Parent rating scale has been added.
- Multiple criteria employed.
- Gemini ID process takes place annually in spring.
- Parents notified by the end of June for following year.

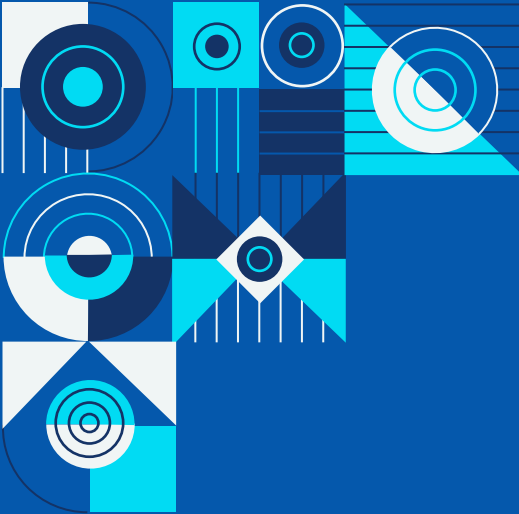


Stakeholder Input



- Continuous monthly meetings with Gifted and Talented Consultant
- Intervisitations between elementary Gemini teachers and Middle School teachers
- Surveyed comparative districts about their gifted programs
- Middle school staff and administration revisit service delivery
- Invite teachers from both primary and upper grades to offer their perspective
- Invite parents to offer their perspectives through informational meeting
- Include current Gemini students in reflection of program (fall 2022)





Any Questions? Thank you

