Upper Merion Area School District Gifted Programming

The mission of the Upper Merion Area School District's Gifted program is to ensure that all gifted and talented students are identified and provided with individualized and challenging educational programs. We offer a range of options to meet each child's needs. We encourage gifted and talented students to join all students in making positive contributions to society.

Program Goals

- Identify and assess eligibility of candidates
- Facilitate parent and school communication
- Create an individualized, flexible, and appropriate program
- Provide appropriate support services
- Provide staff development opportunities
- Collaborate with regular education teachers

Staff

Elementary	Middle	High
Jo Cressor - Roberts	Lisa Chaya	Jeff Bugenhagen
Gregg Matzner – Candlebrook		Ryan Larkin
Amy Miller - Bridgeport		Kim Oren
Kelly Thompson – Caley		

Gifted Program K-4

- One gifted support teacher per building
- Pull out (RtII EXCEL daily)
- Push In support (daily)
- Collaboration on differentiated instruction
- Curriculum compacting and acceleration



K-4 Program Highlights

- Junior Great Books
- Literature discussion groups
- Integration of multiple intelligences
- Continental Math League (1st place in region)
- Technology based projects (iMovie)



Gifted Program 5-6

- Whole group pullout (once per week)
- Small group interest based pullout (once per week)
- Individual student support weekly
- Weekly collaboration with regular education teachers on differentiated instruction
- Curriculum compacting and acceleration



5-6 Program Highlights

- Future City Competition – collaboration with technology teacher
- Interest courses: MathCounts, Public Speaking, Personal Finance, Digital Photography, Electrical Engineering
- Content based projects to extend curriculum goals
- Pre-algebra course for 6th graders



Gifted Program 7-8

- Students placed in courses based on academic needs
- Opportunities for independent study and curriculum extension
- Acceleration and differentiation of curriculum

7-8 Highlights

- STEM and technology project opportunities
- 7th grade Algebra option
- 8th grade Geometry option

9-12 Gifted Program

- Students enroll in courses to meet appropriate level of challenge
- Opportunities for independent study and curriculum extension
- Acceleration and differentiation of curriculum
- Develop student self-advocacy and support for college and career transition
- Gifted resource room
- Gifted seminar elective



9-12 Program Highlights

- Gifted Students enrolled in Virtual High School classes - including Introduction to Computer Science, AP Computer Science, AP Economics, AP Calculus BC, Introduction to Engineering, & Latin.
- College Courses (Linear Algebra through "JHU CTY")
- Dual Enrollment
- Acceleration through mathematics and foreign language curriculum
- Visits to University of Pennsylvania, Villanova University
- Service Learning

