



DUBLIN
CITY SCHOOLS

CREATIVE MINDSETS

Graded Course of Study

2025



Dublin City Schools
Creative Mindsets Grades 6 and 7
Graded Course of Study

DCS Gifted & Talented Vision Statement

The gifted and talented department nurtures the capacity of identified gifted learners, expands enrichment opportunities and develops talent in all children and fosters collaboration to enhance the understanding of students' gifts and talents.

Course Goals:

Creative Mindsets will immerse students in a hands-on, collaborative environment with an innovative approach to learning. This exploratory course, taught by a gifted intervention specialist and open to all learners, cultivates agency through problem solving, critical thinking and the exploration of creative solutions to relevant real-world challenges.

UNIT TOPIC: Agency	
Students will take initiative in their learning by setting personal goals and reflecting on their progress and exploring ways to make informed decisions that positively impact their growth.	
Standard	Student Outcomes
3.5.1 B2.1.c B2.4.c	Identify short and long term goals and/or a personal learning plan, actionable steps to completion and strategies for tracking progress.
3.2.1 A1.3.c A4.3.c	Practice self-advocacy through effective communication of asking for help and expressing thoughts and feelings in a mature manner.



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1.2.2 A2.1.c	Understand personal assets and capabilities and utilize them to make informed decisions.
1.1.1 4.3.1	Propose and lead a project or activity of interest, demonstrating ownership of learning and utilize various resources to support learning and personal development.
4.1.5 A4.2.c B3.1.c	Explore growth mindset, discussing perseverance and resilience in reference to goals and maintaining motivation.

UNIT TOPIC: Collaboration	
Students will practice effective collaboration by participating in activities that require teamwork and the ability to negotiate roles within a team in order to collectively problem solve and make decisions.	
Standard	Student Outcomes
D1.1.a 4.2.3 4.4.3	Participate in team building activities that highlight roles within a team to encourage trust, respect and effective communication among peers.
C1.2.a D3.3.c E3.1.a	Work together on group activities that highlight collective decision making, problem solving and engaging in the practice of conflict resolution.



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C1.3.a D2.2.c I.2.3	Promote inclusivity, ensuring all members contribute, feel valued and are included in the collaborative process.
3.1.7 SL.1	Utilize digital collaboration tools to enhance project management and create outcomes that integrate each member's contributions effectively.
D2.1.c SL.1 B2.1.a	Reflect on individual contributions and the overall effectiveness of the group in achieving its goals, fostering a sense of shared accountability.

UNIT TOPIC: Communication	
Students will develop effective verbal and nonverbal communication skills to express ideas clearly and utilize digital tools to enhance their communication.	
Standard	Student Outcomes
SL.4	Present formally and informally clearly and confidently, learning to share arguments persuasively while respecting opposing viewpoints.
SL.1 SL.6	Develop active listening skills and practice asking open-ended questions to encourage deeper conversations and demonstrate interest in the contributions of others.



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4.5.4 SL.4 SL.5	Create and deliver engaging presentations and practice for compelling storytelling, connecting with the audience emotionally.
4.5.2 SL.1	Participate in peer review sessions and reflect on experiences, identifying strengths and areas for improvement.
A3.2.c D1.1.c	Discuss the importance of communication to diverse audiences and participate in activities that highlight the significance of inclusive language and respectful communication.

UNIT TOPIC: Creativity	
Students will explore different approaches to problem solving by brainstorming and developing innovative solutions to real world challenges and engage in learning that allows them to express their ideas.	
Standard	Student Outcomes
3.4.3	Engage in brainstorming sessions to generate a wide range of ideas for projects, emphasizing quantity over quality to foster creative thinking and exploring new concepts.
4.3.3 C2.3.c	Tackle open-ended, real-world problems that address a specific challenge through divergent thinking and innovative solutions.



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C1.2.c C4.3.c SL.1	Combine individual strengths amongst a group to reflect diverse perspectives and strengthen creative endeavors.
4.1.4 E4.2.c	Embrace risk-taking in the creative process understanding that failure can lead to valuable insights and new directions.
1.3.2 3.3.2	Gain understanding and appreciation for creative traditions and explore how creativity can bridge divides and foster understanding.

UNIT TOPIC: Critical Thinking	
Students will analyze information critically, evaluate sources for credibility, and apply skills to assess problems, identify solutions and make reasoned judgments.	
Standard	Student Outcomes
SL.2 SL.3	Analyze texts for bias and evaluate the credibility of sources by examining authorship, publication context and the quality of evidence provided.
SL.1 SL.2 SL.3 SL.4	Engage in discourse on relevant topics, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of different perspectives and constructing well-reasoned arguments.



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4.3.3 EI.1.c B2.4.c	Apply various problem-solving strategies to complex problems, with opportunities to reflect on what worked, what didn't and how strategies can be improved upon.
EI.1.c	Understand how critical thinking applies across disciplines and draw connections between historical events and contemporary issues.
3.3.1 C2.1.c C3.1.c E3.1.c	Discuss the implications of decisions and the importance of considering multiple viewpoints and the consequences of choices on individuals and communities.

UNIT TOPIC: Self-Management

Students will develop time management skills and will practice self-regulation techniques to manage stress and maintain motivation.

Standard	Student Outcomes
3.2.1 B2.3.c B2.4.c	Prioritize tasks including balancing assignments and responsibilities effectively.



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3.5.2 A4.1.c	Develop a personalized organizational system and learn techniques for creating an environment conducive to focused learning and productivity.
4.1.5 B1.3.c B3.1.c	Identify common stressors and develop coping strategies and a plan that includes activities and practices they can engage in during stressful times to promote their well-being.
A2.1.c A3.2.c	Assess personal development, emotional regulation, and academic performance by identifying strengths and areas for growth through guided reflection.
E2.3.c E2.1.c A2.1.c	Practice making informed decisions by weighing options, considering consequences, and reflecting on personal values during various scenarios.