Is the Young Scholars Program right for you?

___ I am curious about many things and love to learn.

___ I prefer learning at my own pace, in my own way.

___ I set goals, monitor my progress and revise when necessary.

___ I willingly accept leadership roles and collaborate well with others.

___ I enjoy researching ideas using a variety of advanced materials and resources.

___ I am open minded to alternative ideas for solutions.

___ I have many outside-of-school interests.

___ I want to learn how to express my own ideas more effectively.

___ I want to become an independent, self-directed learner.

___ I want to develop self-confidence and a positive self-concept.

___ I am extremely motivated to achieve in life.

For information about this and other programs or services for gifted students, contact

Gifted Education & Academic Rigor Services (GEARS)
Rosemont Center
7000 West Tanners Creek Dr.
Norfolk, VA 23513

Application Process

All students identified as gifted with positive grades, discipline and attendance are eligible to apply.

Young Scholars students are selected through a competitive application process that is 100% criteria based, and considers a variety of academic and attitudinal factors. Application and interview scores are combined and tabulated to determine the final selections.

Step One:
Students complete the NPS online Middle School Application from the NPS website at www.npsk12.com. Students also submit a typed essay as part of the application. Please ask your current school's Gifted Resource Teacher or contact the GEARS office if you have any questions regarding the application.

Step Two:
Applicants who meet the general requirements and show a high potential to be a Young Scholar are selected to move into the next phase of the application process, where they will participate in an interview and present a product or skill they are passionate about. *Not all applicants will be invited to interview.* Students choose a product created within the past year that demonstrates creativity, critical thinking, and research skills.

Step Three:
Selected candidates schedule an interview to present their product. Interviews are conducted at the Academy of Rosemont Middle School, and will include an onsite written essay. Notification of final placement decisions are mailed to students in March.

Norfolk Public Schools
The cornerstone of a proudly diverse community

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YOUNG SCHOLARS

Young Scholars Program

Thinking to Learn
Learning to Think Independently

An Autonomous Learner Model School

2025-26 Information

Program Design

Young Scholars is Norfolk Public Schools' middle years magnet program for highly motivated learners identified as gifted. This "school-within-a-school" is housed at Rosemont Middle School with specially trained faculty who provide researched-based instruction that is challenging and differentiated.

Young Scholars teachers are supportive to the development of critical thinking skills and positive Habits of Mind for all students.

The Young Scholars program affords learners an opportunity to develop cognitive, emotional, and social skills to be leaders and sustain lifelong learning.

The program's curriculum is built around established principles of gifted education:

- Learning through thoughtful processing of content information
- Differentiated instruction focused on acceleration, depth, problem solving, and higher-order thinking
- Ongoing assessment using a wide range of evidence to inform instruction
- Enhanced and expanded content standards
- Development of independent, self-directed autonomous learners by fostering independence, choice, and instruction that meets the unique needs of gifted learners; the Autonomous Learner Model (ALM) is the foundation of the program
- Learning activities based on seven domains of scholarship that prepare students for the demands of high school and college
- Promotion of lifetime learning & respect for excellence

Grade Level Disciplinary Structure

Sixth Grade

Mathematics	Science	Social Studies	English	Enhanced Learning
Introduction to Algebra	Specialty Six Science (6, 7, 8 science content)	U.S. History Survey	Oral language, reading, writing as a process	Autonomous Leaner module (ALM) elective course, ALM infused curriculum; leadership seminars; exploratory classes; fine arts
Emphasis on the development of patterns and number sense essential for higher math	Accelerated and compacted curriculum, preparation for honors and credit-bearing	Independent courses emphasizing interdisciplinary links taught through guided instruction, Socratic dialogues, primary source research, art, philosophy, forensics, and rich literature; Junior Great Books, Level II		

Seventh Grade

Mathematics	Science	Social Studies	English	Enhanced Learning
Algebra I (high school credit)	Earth Science (high school credit)	Civics and Economics	Honors Communication Skills	Foreign Language I (high school credit); ALM infused curriculum; special seminars and a retreat; fine arts electives
Overarching theme of patterns	Focus on deep understanding of scientific processes using problem solving approaches	Focus on building solid foundation for high school honors and credit-bearing social studies courses	Wide choice of rich literature; "community of writers" setting; authentic portfolios; Junior Great Books	

Eighth Grade

Mathematics	Science	Social Studies	English	Enhanced Learning
Geometry (high school credit)	Environmental Science (high school credit)	World Geography (high school credit)	Honors Communication Skills	Foreign Language II; Autonomous learning infused curriculum; special seminars and a retreat; fine arts electives
Constructivist approach to math	Challenging Content using Gifted strategies	Special emphasis on analysis of political, economic and cultural geography of world regions	Heavy emphasis on persuasive writing; lessons keyed to critical thinking; Junior Great Books, Level III	

Other information about course offerings:

- All instruction will advance from specified standards (Virginia SOL for minimal competencies and expanded national and gifted standards for rigorous scholarship).
- A variety of electives and credit bearing foreign language courses (year I and II) will be available for seventh and eighth grade Young Scholars.
- Blocks of time beyond core content areas will be devoted to special courses and programs specifically for Young Scholars.
- Advanced students are provided opportunities for independent study.
- Young Scholars are encouraged to take part in after-school programs such as Great Computer Challenge, Courtroom Law, Socrates Café, and Future Problem Solvers

YOUNG SCHOLARS