

Overview of Middle School Gifted and Talented Education Curriculum 2009 - 2010

Grade	ENGLISH	MATH
6	<p>Grade 6 GT English is structured around the overarching idea of “man’s search for identity” and the universal concepts encompassed in that theme. “The Bard Revealed: An Introduction to Shakespeare,” provides a performance-based survey unit. Major works taught in other units include <i>The Giver</i>, <i>The Fellowship of the Ring</i>, and <i>The Iron Ring</i>.</p> <p>Junior Great Books and Touchstones are also options if they are not used in the reading class.</p>	<p>Transition Mathematics is designed to introduce contemporary ideas in algebra and geometry with an emphasis on the development of skills in problem solving, reasoning, communicating mathematical ideas, representing mathematical ideas, and using patterns to connect concepts within mathematics. The course includes scientific, decimal, percent, exponential, integer, and rational notation, as well as, pattern analysis, real numbers, coordinate graphs and equations, variables, multi-step equations, probability and statistics, geometry and measurement, and problem solving strategies.</p>
7	<p>Grade 7 GT English is structured around the overarching theme of “man’s conflict with society” and the universal concepts identified with that theme. Major works taught include <i>The Call of the Wild</i>, <i>Watership Down</i>, <i>Animal Farm</i>, and <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>.</p>	<p>GT Algebra I provides the foundation for a program in higher mathematics. The course includes data analysis, linear functions and graphs, systems of linear equations, irrational numbers, operations with polynomials, exploration of non-linear functions, prob-ability, simulations, and linear regressions.</p>
8	<p>Grade 8 GT English offers students the overarching theme of “man’s perception of reality” as they investigate related universal concepts. Major works include <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>, <i>The Killer Angels</i>, <i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i>, and <i>Farewell to Manzanar</i>.</p>	<p>GT Algebra II extends algebraic processes and models to sequences and series, matrices, systems of inequalities, linear programming, absolute value functions, quadratic relations and functions, complex numbers, polynomial functions, rational equations, exponential and logarithmic relations, and conic sections.</p>

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Grade	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES
6	<p><i>GT 6 Science</i> is organized around the concept of inquiry. Students are actively engaged in the processes of scientific inquiry that require them to pose questions, examine resources to see what is already known, and plan investigations to solve real-world problems. Students gather, analyze and interpret data, propose answers and explanations, and communicate results. Use of technology and applied mathematics in a problem-based learning (PBL) format are emphasized. The units of study are Introduction to Science, Human Growth and Development, Electricity and Magnetism, and Hydrosphere and Atmosphere.</p>	<p><i>Grade 6 GT World Cultures and Anthropology</i> uses the overarching framework of anthropology to enrich the study of world cultures. Students explore the multi-faceted nature of humankind through the eyes of the cultural anthropologist. The units are; Latin America: A Region of Diversity; South Asia: Continuity of Tradition and Impact of Change; and East Asia: Traditional Culture and Modern Technology.</p>
7	<p><i>GT 7 Science</i> involves the students in a journey that starts with the smallest living thing, a cell, and takes them all the way to the outskirts of the universe, studying constellations and space exploration. Units of study encourage problem solving, research, and investigation. The units of study are Human Systems, Diversity of Life, Waves and Rays, Astronomy, and a problem-based learning (PBL) unit.</p>	<p><i>Grade 7 GT World Cultures</i> uses the concept of identity to enhance the study of world cultures within an historical framework. Students continue to focus on various aspects of regions of the world. The units are Africa: A Rich Cultural Heritage; The Middle East: A Crossroads of Civilizations; Europe: A Mosaic of People and Places; and Central Eurasia: An Area in Transition.</p>
8	<p><i>GT 8 Science</i> consists of concepts from earth, physical, and life science disciplines. Science instruction follows the hands-on/minds-on principle. Students are engaged in real-life application of science in an independent science investigation. The units of study are Environmental Science, Dynamic Earth, Chemistry, and Thermodynamics.</p>	<p><i>Grade 8 History of America</i> presents a chronological, narrative survey of the history of the United States. The anthropological focus in GT 6 and the historical focus in GT 7 are integrated in this course of study. Students continue to focus on the overarching concept of identity but in a national context. Students are provided with experiences to act as oral historians and to see a very immediate connection with the past. The units are Prehistoric America: It's People and Geography, Europeans Explore and Colonize North America, Continuity and Change in Colonial America, Road to Independence: The American Revolution, Creating the American Republic, Nationalism, Expansion and the Market Economy, A Nation Divided: Sectionalism and Slavery, Civil War: America at War with Itself, and Transforming the Nation: Reconstruction.</p>