

Gifted Seminar 8 & Gifted Seminar 9 Update

The North School District is excited to report that working with teachers who have instructed gifted students for many years across the three middle schools we are in the final stages of developing a gifted seminar elective course for grade 8 and grade 9. This course aligns to the NP philosophy and commitment to educating gifted students according to their abilities, interest, and needs. Gifted Seminar 8 and Gifted Seminar 9 are courses whose skill based curriculum is process- rather than content-focused.

The framework of this curriculum is constructed around the exploration of specific themes and generalizations. For example the first theme explored is the theme of relationships. During the study of this theme students will understand the importance of developing and engaging in positive relationships in order to impact productively both their personal lives and their community. Using an inquiry based process, collaborative group work, and independent research students will explore the theme of relationships either through a linguistic, historic, scientific, artistic, or social perspective to demonstrate understanding of the following questions using their critical writing skills, critical reading skills, and communication skills:

- *How does the need for socialization drive our decisions as human beings?*
- *Do humans form relationships to support and reinforce their sense of the world or are their perceptions of the world a result of their relationships?*
- *How do humans interact, effect change, and relate to one another?*
- *How do individual relationships influence the external environment?*

In short, in the gifted seminar courses teachers will employ a variety of instructional strategies that will support students in the development of their own knowledge while fostering an environment where students can build on their individual capabilities, talents and creativity while making real world connections.

The intended outcomes of the courses are to support students in:

- *Realizing how their gifts and talents can be used to impact their local communities, their country, and the world.*
- *Actively engaging in their educational experience.*
- *Exploring their creativity.*
- *Utilizing technology to enhance their learning.*
- *Developing and refining critical thinking skills through research and analysis.*
- *Developing and refining effective communication skills.*

If your child is interested in enrolling in this elective course please contact your student's guidance counselor for course changes.

If you would like to learn more about the courses please contact:

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