

PROJECT AWAKENING

MANASQUAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S GIFTED & TALENTED/ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

GOAL: Project Awakening provides a multi-faceted gifted and talented/enrichment program which is designed to discover, nurture and develop the academic skills, critical thinking skills, and creative abilities of our students. Opportunities for academic advancement are provided at every grade level. Identified students will be challenged to discover answers, create new solutions, and employ these understandings and experiences in their everyday lives. Project Awakening provides educational experiences in a variety of domains by offering activities that will enable our students to expand their knowledge and challenge them to reach their highest potential.

In Grades K-8, all classroom teachers will be responsible for identifying students within their classroom(s) in need of enrichment. Based on identified strengths in any areas provided within our curriculum, teachers will differentiate instruction and offer enrichment opportunities, when appropriate, within their individual classrooms for the identified students. Based upon observation and classroom achievement, teachers will submit a list of identified students, the subject area(s) where enrichment is indicated, and classroom experiences that will be offered to them. This list will be submitted at the end of the first marking period after teachers have had the opportunity to observe their students' achievement for a sufficient period of time. Enrichment activities will then be available for identified students during the 2nd, 3rd, & 4th marking periods.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

GRADE 6 ACCELERATED CLASS

In Grade 6, an **accelerated class** has been created for academic advancement. Using criteria established by the Gifted and Talented Committee, select students will be identified for the accelerated class. The class is designed to further differentiate instruction in order to challenge the identified students in every subject on a daily basis. The criteria for selection is listed below:

Students must meet 3 out of the 4 criteria listed below:

- 93 or higher FINAL average in subject areas: Mathematics, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Technology Education
- Spring NJSLA score: minimum score of 770 in BOTH Mathematics and Language Arts
- CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) -- minimum score of 77
- Grade 6 Accelerated Class Placement Test - minimum score of 80

PLEASE NOTE: The Sixth Grade Accelerated Class will be eliminated after the 2019-2020 school year. Beginning in 2020-2021, Honors Classes will only be offered in Grades 7&8).

HONORS CLASSES

In Grades 7&8, major subject area **HONORS CLASSES** have been created in the respective grade levels for enhanced academic advancement. Using criteria established by the Gifted and Talented Committee, select students will be identified for the honors classes. The criteria is subject area specific, as students have the opportunity to be eligible for any or all of the four honors classes in Mathematics, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies. The program is designed to enhance the curriculum to include rigorous coursework and activities in order to further differentiate instruction for students identified with a strength in specific subject areas. Students will participate in advanced lessons that require increased critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Innovative, project-based learning experiences will be incorporated in the instructional design by our classroom teachers.

Criteria for the Grade 7 & Grade 8 Honors Classes:

Mathematics:

Students must meet 3 out of the 4 criteria listed below:

- 95 or higher FINAL average in Mathematics
- Spring NJSLA score: minimum score of 770 in Mathematics
- Honors Mathematics Placement Test – minimum score of 85
- CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) – minimum score of 77

Language Arts:

Students must meet 3 out of the 4 criteria listed below:

- 95 or higher FINAL average in Language Arts
- Spring NJSLA score: minimum score of 770 in Language Arts
- Honors Language Arts Placement Test – minimum score of 85
- CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) – minimum score of 77

Science:

Students must meet 3 out of the 4 criteria listed below:

- 95 or higher FINAL average in Science
- Spring NJSLA score: minimum score of 770 in Mathematics
- Honors Science Placement Test – minimum score of 85
- CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) – minimum score of 77

Social Studies:

Students must meet 3 out of the 4 criteria listed below:

- 95 or higher FINAL average in Social Studies
- Spring NJSLA score: minimum score of 770 in Language Arts
- Honors Social Studies Placement Test – minimum score of 85
- CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) – minimum score of 77

FOR STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN GRADE 7 HONORS CLASSES: STUDENTS WHO ACHIEVED A FINAL AVERAGE OF 93 OR HIGHER IN THE MAJOR SUBJECT AREA Honors Class (Mathematics, Language Arts, Social Studies, Science) WILL AUTOMATICALLY CONTINUE IN THAT SUBJECT AREA HONORS CLASS THE FOLLOWING YEAR IN GRADE 8. STUDENTS WHO DO NOT MEET THE ACADEMIC GRADE REQUIREMENT OF 93 MUST THEN MEET THE COMPONENTS OF THE ESTABLISHED CRITERIA LISTED ABOVE.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- All data according to the established criteria will be reviewed by the Gifted and Talented Committee for student identification for the accelerated/honors classes. The list of recommended students must then be approved by Building Administration for class placement.
- Identified students will receive a letter stating their acceptance into the accelerated/honors classes. Students have the choice to either accept or decline placement in the accelerated/honors classes. Parental approval is required.
- Students participating in the Sixth Grade Accelerated Class, as well as the Seventh and Eighth Grade Honors Classes will have the major subject area classes (Mathematics, Language Arts, Social Studies and Science) weighted three (3) points for Honor Roll calculations ONLY. The additional points will NOT be added to the final marking period grades shown on report cards.
- Should a parent opt-out their child from taking the State-Mandated Assessment (currently NJSLA), please know that is counted as one missed component of the criteria and all other criteria must be achieved.

APPEAL PROCESS: Upon request, the Gifted and Talented Committee and Building Administration will review student cases on an individual basis and make a determination regarding class placement. The appeal process may include an interview with the student and recommendations from the students' former teachers. A granted request for an appeal is NOT to be considered as guaranteed acceptance into an accelerated/honors class during the upcoming school year.

ACADEMIC/BEHAVIORAL REVIEW OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN ACCELERATED/HONORS CLASSES:

- The School Counseling Office and Building Administration will review final grades at the end of each marking period. Students who are achieving grades of 76 (D) or below – as well as students who have been identified by their teachers as experiencing academic difficulties – will be reviewed for continuation in the accelerated/honors classes. For students identified as experiencing academic difficulty, time will be given through the next marking period interim reports to monitor their progress, allow time for academic improvement, leading to a decision regarding continuation in the accelerated/honors classes. Such intervention will include parental notification, parent/student conferences, and on-going updates on student progress. It should be noted that behavioral concerns causing classroom disruption will also be reviewed and discussed as reason for removal from an accelerated/honors class.

GIFTED AND TALENTED CONSORTIUM OPPORTUNITIES

Project Awakening also offers additional enrichment programs for identified students to participate in outside of the regular classroom to expand their knowledge in specific subject areas. **This component of Project Awakening will be offered to identified students in Grades 4-8 through the *Shore Consortium for the Gifted and Talented* and the *South Shore Consortium for the Gifted and Talented*.** Program opportunities vary from year to year.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM OFFERINGS (Grades 4-8):

MES SPONSORED G&T PROGRAMS (Grades 4-8):

The Gifted and Talented Committee may meet to consider possible after-school program opportunities to be implemented during the course of the school year. Staff members may submit a request to serve as advisor to an established program and/or may prepare a proposal for a new enrichment program. The Committee may also investigate new programs and open them to the staff for possible implementation. Programs will be scheduled on a staggered basis throughout the school year, whenever possible, to allow for maximum participation by students.

When implemented, select programs for students in Grades 4-8 will involve a student application process including specific identification criteria (as needed) for each program offered during the course of the school year. The application will be developed according to the program's targeted subject area.

Selection for the enrichment programs will be made based upon teacher recommendation and student applications. Applications must be completed thoroughly and submitted by the required due date. All applications will be reviewed by the Committee and the Project Advisor. If certain programs allow for participation by only a limited number of students, specific criteria will be established. The Project Advisor and the Committee must then meet to review the criteria and identify the eligible students for the program.

PTO ENRICHMENT PROGRAM OFFERINGS (Grades 4-8):

In addition, the MES Parent-Teacher Organization also sponsors and coordinates a variety of after-school enrichment programs every year. Programs vary from year to year. Any student in the grade level(s) designated for each program are welcome to participate.

MONMOUTH COUNTY ARTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Monmouth County Arts Middle School is an enrichment program for artistically gifted and talented students in Grades 6-8. The program offers accelerated Arts Education Classes for middle school students throughout Monmouth County. The Arts Middle School Program offers accelerated classes in creative writing, instrumental music, dance, visual arts, theater, film-making, and photography taught by a faculty of professional working artists. Identified students are accepted into the program through audition and are released from their regular classes one afternoon a week (for three hours) for a twelve-week term. Student transportation is provided. The classes will be held at the Henry Hudson Regional School. Students accepted into the program must maintain passing grades in all MES classes in order to remain eligible for the program. Students are also responsible for making up regular classwork that is missed.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

The purpose of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulate interest in community service, promote leadership, develop character, and encourage good citizenship.

Eligible students in Grades 6-8 must meet the minimum grade of 95% in core (Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies) subjects. Students who qualify will receive an invitation to apply. Students who complete the required forms will be selected by our Faculty Council for meeting the high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship, and character as outlined by the organization.

Members are required to attend NJHS meetings, to participate in community service, and to model behaviors that exemplify the standards listed above.

Additional Note: It should be understood that students participating in accelerated or, honors classes, as well as high school level courses are NOT weighted for NJHS acceptance calculations.

HONORS CLASSES AT MANASQUAN HIGH SCHOOL

Eighth Grade students may be eligible to take Honors Classes as Freshmen at Manasquan High School in the subject areas of Biology, English, and World History. Students will be notified in the spring of the criteria established by Manasquan High School for the specific courses.

HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSES
(for identified Eighth Graders)

WORLD LANGUAGES PROGRAM

Students entering the Eighth Grade may be eligible to take a high school level World Languages course with the following stipulations:

Stipulations for World Languages:

1. Final grades will be averaged on all four marking periods plus an average of the mid-term and final exam.
2. Students may drop the course at any time up to the mid-term examination, which may be used in the final decision for remaining in or dropping the subject.
3. Students taking **Spanish I (or French I)** in the eighth grade will receive credit for that course in Elementary School only. **The course will not appear on their high school transcript.**
4. Students who successfully complete Spanish I (or French I) in the eighth grade will have the opportunity to continue with that language in high school or begin instruction in a new world language. Specifically, students who receive a final grade of an “A” in Spanish I (or French I) will have the opportunity to take Spanish II Honors (or French II Honors). Students who receive a “B” or “C” as the final grade will have the opportunity to take Spanish II (or French II). If a student receives a “C” or “D”, consideration will be made to repeat Spanish I (or French I) during their Freshman year. Students who fail the course must take a first year world language course in high school.
5. Marking Period final grades will be weighted (7 points) for honor roll status only.

Criteria for Eligibility

Students must meet two out of three:

1. Final average of 93 or higher in Grade 7 World Language rotation class
2. Teacher recommendation by the 7th grade World Language teacher
3. Final average 93 or higher in Grade 7 Language Arts class

PLEASE NOTE: World Language classes are additional classes that are scheduled before the start of the elementary school day. The classes run from 7:40 – 8:20 am.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

With regards to the Algebra I, Geometry I, Spanish I, and French I courses, our students will be held to the attendance regulations of Manasquan High School which stipulate that excessive absence is defined as fifteen (15) days in any full year class.

GRADE 8 ALGEBRA I PROGRAM

Students entering the Eighth Grade will be eligible to take a high school level Algebra I course with the stipulations listed below. Students meeting the criteria will be placed in the Eighth Grade Honors Mathematics Class.

1. Final grades will be averaged on all four marking periods plus an average of the mid-term and final exam.
2. Students may drop the course and transfer to another eighth grade mathematics class at any time up to the mid-term examination, which may be used in the final decision for remaining in or dropping the subject.
3. Students who receive a final grade of an "A" will have the opportunity to take *Geometry Honors*. Students who receive a "B" or "C" as the final grade will have the opportunity to take *Geometry*. If a student receives a "C" or "D, consideration will be made to repeat **Algebra I** during their freshman year.
Students failing the course will be required to repeat **Algebra I** in high school.
4. Students taking **Algebra I** in the eighth grade will receive credit for that course in Elementary School only. **The course will not appear on their high school transcript.**
5. Marking Period final grade will be weighted (7 points) for honor roll status only.

Criteria for Eligibility

Students must meet three out of four:

1. Spring NJSLA Mathematics Test: minimum score of 770
2. Final average of 95 or higher in Grade 7 Mathematics class
3. 80 or higher on the Algebra I Placement Test
4. Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT): minimum score of 77

GRADE 7 ALGEBRA I PROGRAM – Bridge Class

Selected Seventh Grades will have the opportunity to participate in an accelerated mathematics program. Identified students will bypass the Seventh Grade mathematics class and attend a high school level Algebra I class as a Seventh Grader. With successful completion of Algebra I, those students will then have the opportunity to take a high school level Geometry class as an Eighth Grader. (Students will receive credit for the Geometry class in Elementary School only. The course will not appear on their high school transcript.)

Criteria for Eligibility

1. 85 or higher on the Algebra I Placement Test
2. 95 or higher in Mathematics during all four marking periods of Sixth Grade
3. Recommendation by the 6th grade Math Teacher

(Please note: Due to the advanced nature of the accelerated program, selectivity of participating students is extremely stringent.)

Marking Period final grade will be weighted (7 points) for honor roll status only.

In addition, students identified for the program (who have accepted participation) will be required to take a two-week "Algebra I Bridge Class" in July to prepare for the program beginning in September.

NOTE FOR BOTH ALGEBRA PROGRAMS ABOVE:

The State of NJ require that ALL students taking High School Algebra achieve a minimum score of "4" (Met Expectations) or "5" (Exceeded Expectations) on the Spring NJSLA Algebra Assessment in order to meet the High School Graduation Requirements. Students that do not meet the needed score of 4 or 5 MUST retake the assessment OR repeat the Algebra course.