

READINGTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Enrichment Program

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Philosophy

The Readington Township School District is committed to an educational program that develops critical thinkers and independent, lifelong learners. Each individual possesses a variety of intelligences, as well as a unique learning style, temperament, and pattern of growth and development. Students of all ages need to learn at their instructional level with pace and depth of content matching and challenging their abilities. The Readington Township School District recognizes the unique value, needs, talents, abilities, and intelligences of the individual student and thereby provides enriching and challenging experiences for all students.

To implement this philosophy, we provide an enrichment opportunities for students.

The Readington Township School District views students, staff, parents, and community members as partners. Each member of the partnership shares responsibility to ensure access to learning opportunities so that each student's potential may be maximized.

Enrichment Opportunities

As the Readington Township School District recognizes the unique needs, interests, talents, abilities, and intelligences of each individual student, it will provide an enrichment program that enhances and extends classroom experiences for all students.

Enrichment will

- Operate as an integral part of the entire educational program.
- Provide diverse activities and assignments that extend learning beyond the regular classroom and address particular interests/talents.
- Foster a safe learning environment with clear expectations and accepting attitudes that encourage risk-taking and exploration.
- Encourage individual confidence and responsibility.
- Use current research and technical resources to design opportunities that enhance learning.

Enrichment

Readington Township Public Schools' Enrichment centers on the needs of all students. The program includes carefully selected experiences that are purposefully developed to be motivational and to expose students to a wide variety of disciplines, topics, ideas, concepts, issues and/or events. Classroom teachers provide enrichment experiences as part of the regular educational program. Additionally, enrichment teachers provide extended, interest-based offerings outside the regular classroom setting.

At the developmentally appropriate level, these enrichment extensions provide opportunities for students to

- Develop general cognitive skills such as creative problem solving, critical thinking and decision making.
- Develop and practice a variety of metacognitive skills, such as note-taking; interviewing; classifying, archiving or analyzing data; drawing conclusions; etc.
- Develop advanced research skills.
- Develop written, oral and visual communication and presentation skills.

The Extensions Program for the **Kindergarten – Grade 3** students may include the following:

- “Kids’ Pages”
- Writing Contests
- Science Fair
- Sunshine Math
- Challenge Math Packets
- MakerSpace
- Independent Research Projects

The Extensions Program for **Grades 4-5** students may include the following:

- Discovery Lab
- Bobcat News Crew
- Destination Imagination
- Scripps *Express Times* Spelling Bee
- Food for Thought (interest based lunch clubs)
- Egg Drop Challenge
- Pringle Challenge
- NJ MakerSpace Day
- Competitions - Doodle 4 Google, Made with Milk, Rubberband contest, essay contest, photography contest, caption competition, etc
- Science Fair
- Chess club
- Invention Convention
- Talent Show
- Science Olympiad

The school-wide Enrichment Program for **Grades 6-8** may include the following:

- Artists and Writers: Doodle 4 Google, Writing Challenges, and more
- Biomimicry Design Challenge
- Debate
- eCybermission
- Escape Room
- Future City
- Grades of Green
- Lexus Eco-Challenge

- Math League
- Model UN / Youth and Government
- NASA Future Engineers
- National Geographic GeoChallenge
- NJ BOE STEAM Tank
- RMS News Crew
- Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Challenge
- Scripps Spelling Bee
- Smithsonian Invent-It Challenge
- Strategy Game Design and Play
- TED-Ed Talks
- You Be the Chemist Challenge

Identification of Candidates for the Extension Program

The Extension Programs in Readington Township Schools are needs-based. These programs are intended for those students who exhibit intellectual and/or academic abilities requiring additional and appropriate educational challenges and opportunities to meet those needs. The criteria for admission include a variety of data points, which may vary depending on a student's grade level. A combination of standardized test scores, student work samples, classroom grades, and teacher input are considered when determining eligibility.

Program Overview

Kindergarten-Grade 1: Students will receive a pull-out program which will provide opportunities for an in-depth exploration of language arts and/or mathematics.

Grades 2-5: Students will receive a thematic pull-out program on a regular basis. Within themes, all students will have an opportunity to 1) conduct guided and independent research; 2) work collaboratively with peers; 3) solve challenging problems; 4) prepare and present to an audience; and 5) explore and debate essential questions.

Grades 6-8: The middle school school-wide enrichment program has an interdisciplinary academic focus, extending and adding dimensionality to the conventional curriculum, emphasizing higher level thinking. All students are welcome to participate.

Levels of Service for Readington Township Schools

Level 1: Differentiated Instruction and Exploratory Experiences

Occurs in the classroom for all students and is directed by the classroom teacher. Examples: Individualized reading or writing conferences, projects adjusted to accommodate individual learning styles, creative and critical thinking skills and tools, field trips, guest speakers

Grades Pre K-8: Occurs in each classroom

Level 2: School-Wide Enrichment

All students are encouraged to participate. Examples: After-school clubs, lunch time enrichment groups, Sunshine Math, Spelling or Geography Bees, Science Fair, NJ Makers Day

Grades K-5: Push in whole class lessons, voluntary pull out groups, and after-school clubs

Grades 6-8: Lunch time and after-school clubs

Level 3: Academic Grade Level Extension

Specific criteria must be met in order to qualify for services.

Kindergarten and Grade 1: ELA and Math Extension

Grade 2: Math Extension

Grade 3: Honors Math and Math Extension

Grades 4 & 5: Advanced and Honors Math

Grades 6-8: Advanced and Honors Math

Honors Language Arts

ELA and Math Extension consists of once a week pull out services.

Level 4: Gifted and Talented Services

Specific and rigorous criteria must be met in order to qualify for services.
Classes are led by the GT teacher.

Grades 2-5: Pull out services 3 times a week

Grades 6-8: Pull out services 2 to 3 times a week

References

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2010 Pre-K-Grade 12 Gifted Programming Standards. (2010, September 21). Retrieved October 3, 2016, from http://www.nagc.org/sites/default/files/standards/K-12_programming_standards.pdf