

Middle School Gifted Education in Blue Valley Schools

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Middle School Gifted Education Services



Education *Beyond* Expectations



Guided Discovery Class

- Primary services delivered through Guided Discovery class
- Guided Discovery paired with Physical Education, so it meets every other day
- Unique individual needs met through other contact with gifted education teacher
- Gifted education teacher provides ideas for strategies and resources for general education teachers to use for differentiation



Education *Beyond* Expectations



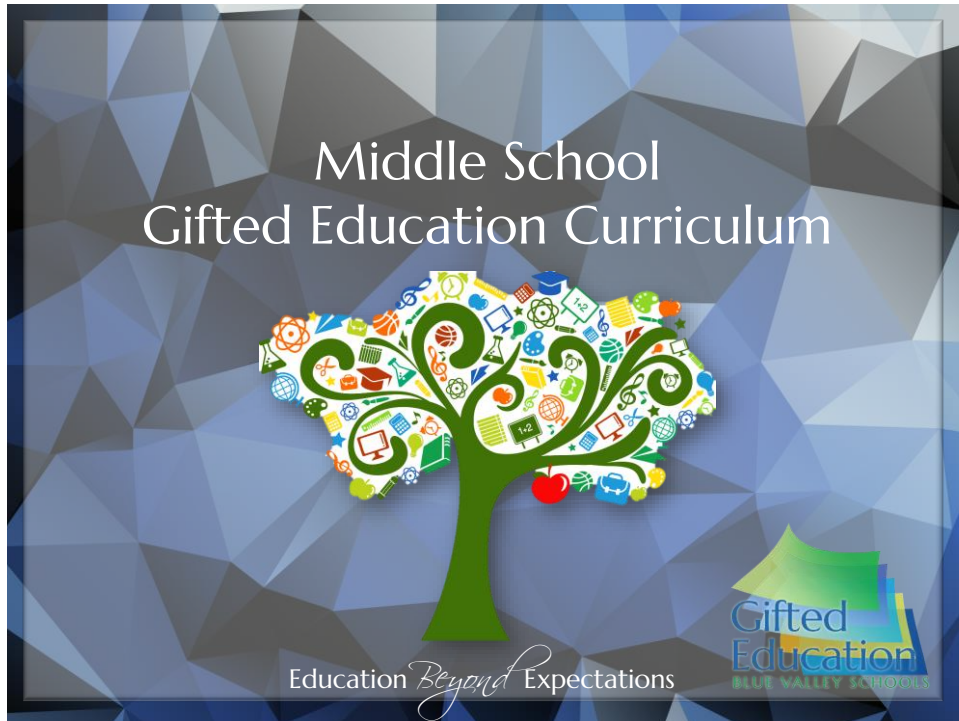
Middle School Services

- Gifted education curriculum
 - Small group experiences
- Personalized support for the pursuit of IEP goals
- Transition support during 6th & 8th grades
- College and career readiness support and investigation
- Passion area research direction
- Social and emotional support for being a student who is gifted in a non-gifted world



Education *Beyond* Expectations





Gifted Education Curriculum

- Overarching Skill Strands
 - Critical Thinking Skills
 - Creative Thinking Skills
 - Problem Solving Skills
 - Research Skills
 - Technology Skills
 - Leadership Skills
 - Social & Emotional Coping Skills
- Skill strands consistent across schools
- Activities may differ among schools

Education *Beyond* Expectations

Gifted Education
BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

The slide features a blue and grey geometric background. On the right side, there is a colorful, multi-faceted brain graphic. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo consisting of three overlapping green and blue shapes.

Gifted Education Curriculum

- Collaboratively developed strands, units, activities
- Individually developed strands, units, activities
- Capitalize on the interests and passions of the students each year
- Small group and individualized experiences

Education *Beyond* Expectations



Gifted Education Class

- Grade level time with gifted education teacher and other students identified as gifted
- Other needs met individually
- Half of the time on IEP goals; half of the time on curriculum elements
- Goals ideally tied to skills
- The art and craft of teaching



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Middle School Sample Activities

- Experience the activities students engage in!
 - Writing 6 Word Stories
 - Critical Thinking
 - Creative Thinking
 - Toy Box Leadership
 - Leadership
 - Social-Emotional Coping
 - Design Thinking for Future Cities
 - Problem Solving
 - Research
- Share your experience with the group



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Sharing the Experience

Share with the rest of the group your experiences and impressions from your table's activity.



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Writing Six-Word Stories

- Originated with Hemingway
- Fosters experimentation with language
- Requires precision in diction
- Practice in syntax of words
- Fosters creative thinking with pictures
- Leads to a larger story-telling unit
- Interest built with throwback to childhood via *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*

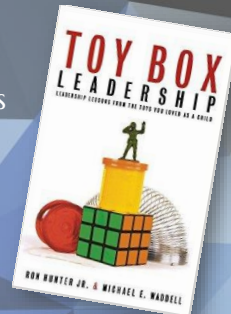


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Toy Box Leadership

- Defining critical leadership traits
- Small group interaction
- Supports development of transferrable traits
- Replaces tendency toward bossiness in group situations
- Facilitates social and emotional skills for building meaningful relationships
- Facilitates communication and teamwork
- Part of study of *Toy Box Leadership* book



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Design Thinking for Future Cities

- Development of creative thinking skills
 - Fluency—many ideas
 - Flexibility—variety of ideas
 - Originality—unique ideas
 - Elaboration—details, improving ideas
- Development of research skills
- Learning to consider innovative approaches to everyday situations from different perspectives, while focusing on human needs
- Transferrable skills to wide range of academic, social, interpersonal, career, life, and other situations
- Part of the process for participation in Future City design competition

future City

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BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Potential Topics

- Wide range of potential topics
 - Toy Box Leadership
 - Six Word Stories
 - Future City Design
 - What If
 - Coding
 - Robotics
 - Debate
 - Communication & Listening
 - Service Learning
 - Inventions
 - How Big is Big
 - Mindsets
 - Understanding Perfectionism
 - Who Am I? Gifted Dossiers
 - Many more
- Dependent on students' grade levels and interests



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Middle School Schedules

- Guided Discovery is a class during the school day
- Students in same grade in classes together
- Multiple sections for one grade level
- Part of the A/B school schedule
- Additional needs met individually
- Gifted education teachers attend PLCs for teams when possible
- Schedules built as part of the overall building schedule



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Extracurricular Activities

- Extracurricular activities typically specific to each school
 - Student interest
 - Adult sponsorship
- Commonly seen activities
 - Battle of the Brains
 - Various "bees" (spelling, geography, etc.)
 - Robotics
 - Interest driven school clubs (chess, books,
 - Science fair
 - Math tests/competitions
 - Writing contests
 - Student Council
 - Music (band, orchestra, choir)
 - Performing Arts (theater, yearbook, newspaper)
 - Sports (basketball, football, volleyball, track, cross country, possibly others)
 - Community service
- What to do if a club/activity does not yet exist



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