



Freshman Gifted Education Services Patriot High School 2023 – 2024

Freshmen in the Gifted Education & Talent Development program will think about and respond to a variety of topics and issues that concentrate on the nature of the human being and on human activity. Services for the year will be offered to students through Socratic Seminars, written reflections and artistic expressions, or asynchronous (on-demand) modules available through Canvas. The curriculum provided by Prince William County Schools (PWCS) offers the following topics for the experience:

Push-In Seminars

DSP & Letter to Senior Self (Sept. 12-14)
Giftedness & Self-Assessment (Oct. 10-12)
Evaluating Multiple Intelligences (Nov. 15-17)
Unpacking Language (Feb. 13-15)
Investigate Science (Mar. 18-20)

Pass (Choice) Seminars

Decoding Bliss Symbolics (Oct. 30-31)
Define and Defend Art (Dec. 7-8)
Discerning Creativity (Feb. 28 & 29)
Imagine Artificial Intelligence Potential (Apr. 3 & 4)

Students will have the opportunity to explore these topics and refine critical, conceptual, reflective, creative, and collaborative thinking skills. The focus for our identified gifted 9th graders will be on collaborative thinking. They will be assessed on the following collaborative thinking skills:

- Cooperating with peers
- Initiating and furthering discussion
- Using collaboration as an opportunity to learn

Most of our students are clustered with other identified gifted students in their English classes where we will push into the classroom 5 times and facilitate Socratic seminars. Additionally, students will be issued passes 4 times this year for Choice seminars. They will receive these passes from their English teacher. For those identified students who are not in a clustered class, all 9 seminars will be treated as Choice seminars, and passes will be issued by their 1st and 2nd block teachers. When issued passes, students are advised to select the time that is the least disruptive to their learning experience.

This seminar schedule will be posted in the Canvas course. These plans are all contingent upon PWCS's operating status.

Students will complete the Differentiated Services Plan (DSP) allowing them to reflect on their goals. This exercise provides information for resource teachers to meet the students' needs and will be mailed home in January to assist students and parents in scheduling classes for next school year.

Participation in the opportunities offered will be recorded and mailed to parents/guardians after the 1st semester and at the end of the year.

During the seminar experience, it is expected that devices will only be used for instructional purposes.

For students that have participated in both push-in and choice seminars, we will be visiting the East Wing of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC on January 11, 2024 (tentative date). If you are interested in chaperoning, we would appreciate your support.

The following options are also available for freshmen students identified as gifted:

* **Advanced classes** are not limited to students identified as gifted but are considered a vital part of services in high school. These courses provide acceleration and differentiation as a part of meeting the needs of gifted learners.

* If a student does not want to attend seminar but does not want to be removed from the gifted program, the student may be placed on "**conference**" status with parent permission. The student would meet several times with us to discuss academic goals and achievement.

Due to the competitive nature of the following academic opportunities, we recommend that freshmen begin building a resume that will distinguish them from other students when applying during their sophomore and junior years. Please contact us if your student is interested in pursuing any of these opportunities.

* **Summer Residential Governor's Schools** provide students with FREE month-long learning opportunities on college campuses over the summer. Students may apply during sophomore and junior years but may only attend once. Admission is competitive. Tuition, housing, and meal costs are covered by the county. You may find application information on the Prince William County Schools website.

*Students may also apply to attend the **Governor's School @ Innovation Park** for their junior and senior years. The program is not limited to gifted students but requires strong abilities in math and science. These STEM students attend the George Mason University campus at Innovation Park in the morning and return to Patriot for lunch and their sixth and seventh blocks of instruction. Information is also on the PWCS site under "Academic Programs" and "Gifted Education."

We look forward to meeting you from 6PM-8PM at Patriot's Back-to-School Night on **September 7, 2023** in Room 1301. We will also be available at Touch Base from 8AM– 10AM on **October 9, 2023**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know!

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Gifted Education and Talent Development Teachers
Patriot High School

Freshman Gifted Education Services

Patriot High School

2023 – 2024

By signing on this page, you and your parent/guardian acknowledge that you have read and understand the information contained herein. Please submit this form to your Language Arts teacher, to Mr. Hegerle, or to Mrs. Phillips no later than September 25, 2023.

Student Printed Name

Date

Student Signature

Parent Printed Name

Date

Parent Signature

