

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

2020-21 EDITION



Accelerated Programming for Scholars in Grades K-8

2020-21 EDITION

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Moriarty, Asst. Superintendent, Elementary Education

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WHAT IS THE NECSD K-8 TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM?

All scholars deserve the opportunity to learn in an environment that recognizes their unique strengths. Our District's Talent Development Program provides scholars with classroom settings and additional learning opportunities that develop their special talents and abilities in grades K-8.



OVERVIEW OF ELEMENTARY LEVEL PROGRAMMING FOR ALL STUDENTS

At the elementary level, the District offers challenging K-5 thematic units of study that combine English reading and writing, mathematics, social studies and science to make learning engaging and fun while scholars make sense of real-life topics and problems to solve. These learning experiences are supported by physical education and arts instruction as well as field trips, all of which expose students to ways of understanding topics and concepts beyond the core classroom.

Academic growth is continually assessed by classroom teachers – through conversations, unit tests, writing samples, Technology, projects and performances. The data that teachers gather in these ways support their conversations with scholars and their families regarding how scholars are progressing with their instruction. This information also helps teachers in making decisions on what specific skills and concepts need to be reinforced to our scholars.

The District offers additional learning opportunities for K-5 scholars through school-based and District-coordinated After-School and Saturday School activities. Below, please find a listing of the District-coordinated opportunities:

Program Name	Location	Type of Program	Contact Person
21st Century After-School Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balmville • Gardnertown • Gidney Avenue (GAMS) • Vails Gate • Horizons-on-the-Hudson 	Enrichment Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual and Performing Arts provided by the Boys & Girls Club of Newburgh • Math & Movement • Weekend Family Fun Field Trips • Academic Tutoring in ELA and Math • ELL tutoring • SEL (Health and Wellness instruction) • Music and Movement provided by Zylofone Studios • LEGO robotics • STEM (Hands-on science and engineering experiences) 	Susan Torres-Bender Program Facilitator 845-568-6674

English Language Learner (ELL) Saturday Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location varies 	English Language Support/ Enrichment for English Language Learners in grades K-5	Chastity Beato Director of Language Acquisition & World Languages 845-563-3478
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Please reach out to your child’s elementary school to find out more about additional After-School and Saturday School programs which may be available.



UNLIMITED HORIZONS (UH) IN GRADES K-5

Scholars who consistently demonstrate that they require challenge beyond the levels of their peers may be eligible for the Unlimited Horizons (UH) program which is housed at Horizons-on-the-Hudson. Candidates are expected to take a cognitive abilities test (COGAT) in June as well as undergo an interview with District representatives to determine eligibility. Educator recommendation will also be considered. In preparation for the 2019-20 school year, the District will test all new applicants who are interested. The District expects to notify qualifying scholars of their placement at the onset of summer recess. (See the table below.)

Timeline for Unlimited Horizons (UH) Communications, Testing & Placement	
May 2020	Information shared with families regarding online interview process Information will be shared via Robocall, NECSD website, and social media
June 2020	Parents apply via Google Form on the District Website by June 10th, 2020.
June 2020	Candidates are interviewed for grades K-5
June 22-26 (Tentative Dates)	Families notified of Unlimited Horizons placement
June 29 - July 3	Appeal period

Any family that is not satisfied with the District’s decision regarding Unlimited Horizons placement may appeal the decision by writing directly to the Superintendent of Schools. The letter should explain why the family does not agree with the District’s decision. *Please note that appeals received after the appeal period will not be considered.*





OVERVIEW OF MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL PROGRAMMING FOR ALL STUDENTS

Similar to the educational opportunities that the District offers to its younger age-group, middle school scholars engage in a rigorous, Standards-aligned curriculum, which includes the four essential core subjects of English, mathematics, science and social studies. In addition, physical education, assorted arts classes, home and technical careers, world languages and health classes help prepare our middle schoolers before they transition off to high school. Field trips at the middle school level are also extremely important to the learning of our scholars since these experiences often reinforce what they have learned in their classrooms.

Academic growth is continually assessed by subject area teachers – through conversations, unit tests, writing samples, projects and performances. The data that teachers gather at the middle school level also support their conversations with each other as well as with scholars and their families regarding how scholars are doing with their daily instruction. This information also helps teachers in making decisions on what specific skills and concepts need to be taught more than once to our scholars.

The District also offers additional learning opportunities for scholars in grades 6-8 through school-based and District-coordinated After-School and Saturday School activities. Below, please find a listing of the District-coordinated opportunities:

Program Name	Location	Type of Program	Contact Person
Empire State After-School Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage • Meadow Hill • South Middle School • Temple Hill 	Enrichment Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boys & Girls Club of Newburgh • ----Dance, including hip hop • ----Graphic & Visual Arts • Maternal Infant Services (MiSN) • ----Including programs such as the Teen Outreach Program (TOP) • Empire Drumline • Empire Steel Pan Music Group • Intramural Sports • Fiber Arts • Yoga, Mindfulness, Reading & Writing • Drones, Robotics, and Coding • Academic & Cultural Awareness Programs • Girls' Running & Weight Training Club • The Heritage Chronicle • Hands on Science Experiments • Introduction to Dance • Film & Fiction Exploration • Sabor Latino • Fitness, Health, and Wellness Club Empire Summer Program Offerings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholars in Scrubs at Newburgh Armory • STEM Black Rock • TEAM Survival Science with Clarkson University • Summer Middle School Musical • STEAM Focus on the Arts • Empire Arts Programs 	Kelli Sciarra Program Facilitator 845-563-3434

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empire Drumline • Empire Steel Pan Music Group • Fitness, Health, and Wellness Club 	
English Language Learner (ELL) Saturday Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location varies 	English Language Support/ Enrichment for English Language Learners in grades 6-8	Chastity Beato Director of Lang. Acquisition & World Languages 845-563-3478

Please reach out to your child's middle school to find out more about additional After-School and Saturday School programs which may be available. *Note some programs may be eliminated and/or changed via funding, enrollment and Governor orders due to Covid 19.



ACCELERATED COURSES PROGRAM IN GRADES 6-8

The middle level Accelerated Courses Program is designed to challenge the minds and meet the needs of high-ability and high-achieving scholars. Accelerated courses in grades 6-8 are offered at the District's two K-8 schools as well as the middle schools. These classes are open to all scholars who meet the eligibility criteria. The goal of the programs is to provide extensions to the grade level course of studies, adding depth, in order to nurture and develop our scholars' advanced academic potential.

Rigor is a critical component of academic excellence and is central to preparing scholars in the middle grades to succeed in advanced coursework in high school and in society. Accelerated courses are characterized by a deeper level of discussion and analysis of topics and issues. Teachers use a variety of instructional practices that generate frequent interchange of ideas among scholars.

The coursework incorporates high-level analytical reasoning, creative thinking and problem solving strategies. Emphasis is placed on deep understanding of important concepts and the development of essential skills. Scholars are encouraged to approach learning in a variety of ways in order to develop a strong foundation for academic and intellectual growth, achievement, and personal success. They are encouraged to self-assess and reflect on their learning and the learning process. Scholars who participate in accelerated courses *are expected* to meet or exceed high academic standards.

The scholars' learning experiences are enhanced through projects and assignments, such as those listed below:

- Extended class and independent reading assignments and research-based writing assignments that connect and extend the course curricula and connect varied disciplines
- Long-term projects or performance tasks – such as oral presentations, debates, performances, displays, or publications – that demonstrate application of learning in one or more discipline areas to relevant or real-world situations and to community concerns
- Open-ended investigations in which the scholar selects the questions and designs the research
- Writing assignments that use a variety of genres for comparative analysis
- Deeper exploration of the culture, values, and history of the disciplines
- Extensive opportunities for problem-solving experiences through imagination, critical analysis, and application
- Development of a collection of student work that contains self-reflection and goal setting
- Students who pass the middle level 8th Grade Accelerated Courses **and** the accompanying Regents exams and/or Checkpoint A exam will enter 9th Grade with high school course credit (Algebra I, Earth Science, Living Environment, US History and/or US History, LOTE).

Continued success in Regents courses and on Regents exams in high school may afford scholars an opportunity to take Advanced Placement courses as early as their sophomore year at Newburgh Free Academy.



MIDDLE LEVEL ACCELERATED PROGRAM PLAN

Year	Accelerated Courses
2020-21	Students can take up to 4 high school classes: Algebra World Language Earth Science (THS, MHS, HMS, SMS) Living Environment (<i>THS/HMS</i>) US History (<i>South Middle School only</i>)

Timeline for MS Accelerated Courses Program Communications, Testing & Placement	
June 5, 2020	Robocall to teachers of current grade 6 grade scholars, informing them of 2020 -21 Middle School Accelerated Program Guidance Booklet online
June 5, 2020	District posts the 2020 -21 Middle School Accelerated Program Guidance Booklet (course summary and eligibility criteria) online
July 15, 2020	Schools notified of qualifying scholars for grade 6 SLA 6 (Spanish Language Arts)
August 15, 2020	Offer letters sent to families via US Postal Service
September 1 – 11, 2019	Appeal period

Any family that is not satisfied with the District's decision regarding Accelerated Courses Program placement may appeal the decision by meeting with the building principal first and filling out an appeal form. *Please note that appeals received after the Appeal period will not be considered.*



CRITERIA FOR ENTERING THE ACCELERATED COURSES PROGRAM IN GRADE 6

Accelerated Grade 6 Spanish Language Arts Course

Current grade 5 scholars must score 13 or above on the matrix** below to qualify for Accelerated Grade 6 Spanish Language Arts Coursework:

Points	3	2	1
Attendance (between 9/1 - 3/06)	95%+	93%	91%
SLA 6 Diagnostic Assessment*	90+	80-89	70-79
Teacher Recommendation	Y		N
Grade 4 Report Card (Final Trimester - ELA)	4	3	2
Grade 5 Report Card (Final Trimester - ELA)	4	3	2

*Due to Covid-19, for the school year 2020-2021, students who attended a NECSD K-5 Dual Language program will be enrolled into SLA 6. In addition, South MS will enroll 6th grade students enrolled in the Bilingual program.

The incoming 6th grade class in 2021-2022, **except for ELLs enrolled in a Bilingual program in 6th grade, who would like to be enrolled for the SLA LOTE Pathway would have to take and pass the SLA Diagnostic* at the end of 5th grade. This includes students who attended a NECSD K-5 Dual Language program.

Students who qualify and are recommended for SLA 6 must have strong foundational literacy skills in Spanish.

All scholars who qualify for Accelerated Courses will be notified by their assigned school in August.



CRITERIA FOR ENTERING THE ACCELERATED COURSES PROGRAM IN GRADE 7

Accelerated Grade 7 Math Course

Current grade 6 scholars that refuse the Math state test must score 10* or above on the matrix below to qualify for Accelerated Grade 7. Current grade 6 scholars that take the Math state test must score 12 or above on the matrix below to qualify for Accelerated Grade 7.

Math Coursework:

Points	3	2	1
Attendance	95%+	93%	91%
Mathematics Learning Survey - Teacher	21-24	18-20	
Grade 6 Final Exam	92+	88-91	85-87
Grade 6 Report Card Average of Four Quarters	95+	92-94	88-91
NYS Math 6 results	4	3	2

In light of the Covid-19 March-June 2020 closure, the criteria will be modified and a total of at least 10 points is required from the grid below:

Points	3	2	1
Attendance (Between 9/1/2019 - 3/6/2020)	95%+	93%	91%
Mathematics Teacher Recommendation	Y		N
Grade 6 Mid-Year iReady	515+	505-514	495-504
Grade 6 Report Card Average of Three Quarters	95+	92-94	88-91

Accelerated Grade 7 Science Course

Current grade 6 scholars must score 10 or above on the matrix below to qualify for Accelerated Grade 7 Science Coursework:

Points	3	2	1
Attendance	95%+	93%	91%
Science Learning Survey - Teacher	21-24	18-20	
Grade 6 Final Exam	92+	88-91	85-87
Grade 6 Report Card Average of Four Quarters	95+	92-94	88-91

In light of the Covid-19 March-June 2020 closure, the criteria will be modified and a total of at least 7 points is required from the grid below:

Points	3	2	1
Attendance (Between 9/1/19 and 3/6/20)	95%+	93%	91%
Teacher Recommendation	Y		N
Grade 6 Final Exam (Not calculated for 2019-2020)	92+	88-91	85-87
Grade 6 Report Card Average Quarters 1-3	95+	92-94	88-91

Accelerated Grade 7 Social Studies Course

Current grade 6 scholars that refuse the ELA state test must score 10 or above on the matrix below to qualify for Accelerated Grade 7. Current grade 6 scholars that take the ELA test must score 12 or above on the matrix below to qualify for Accelerated Grade 7.

Social Studies Coursework:

Points	3	2	1
Attendance	95%+	93%	91%
Social Studies Teacher Recommendation	Y		N
Grade 6 Final Exam	92+	88-91	85-87
Grade 6 Report Card Average of Four Quarters	95+	92-94	88-91
NYS ELA 6 results	4	3	2

In light of the Covid-19 March-June 2020 closure, the criteria will be modified and a total of at least 10 points is required from the grid below:

Points	3	2	1
Attendance (9/1/19 - 3/6/20)	95%+	93%	91%
Social Studies Teacher Recommendation	Y		N
Grade 6 mid-year ELA iReady*	640+	620-639	615-619
Grade 6 Report Card Average of Quarters 1-3	95+	92-94	88-91

*Reading Placements - Comprehension Informational

Accelerated Grade 7 Spanish Language Arts Course

Grade 6 grade scholars must score a total of at least 10 points from the grid below to qualify for Accelerated Grade 7

Points	3	2	1
Attendance	95%+	93%	91%
SLA 6 Final	90+	80-89	70-79
Teacher Recommendation	Y		N
Grade 6 Report Card Average of Four Quarters	4	3	2

In light of the Covid-19 March-June 2020 closure, the criteria will be modified and a total of at least 10 points is required from the grid below to qualify for Accelerated Grade 7 SLA Coursework:

Points	3	2	1
Attendance (between 9/1 - 3/06)	95%+	93%	91%
SLA 6 Final	90+	80-89	70-79
Teacher Recommendation	Y		N
Grade 6 Report Card Average of Quarters 1-3	4	3	2

*Current grade 6 scholars who attend SLA 6 must satisfactorily meet the above criteria to qualify for Accelerated Grade 7 (SLA 7).



CRITERIA FOR ENTERING THE ACCELERATED COURSES PROGRAM IN GRADE 8

Accelerated Grade 8 Math Course

Current grade 7 scholars that refuse the Math state test must score 10 or above on the matrix below to qualify for Accelerated Grade 8. Current grade 7 scholars that take the Math state test must score 12 or above on the matrix below to qualify for Accelerated Grade 8.

Math Coursework:

Points	3	2	1
Attendance	95%+	93%	91%
Mathematics Teacher Recommendation	Y		N
Grade 7 Final Exam	92+	88-91	85-87
Grade 7 Report Card Average of Four Quarters	95+	92-94	88-91
NYS Math 7 results	4	3	2

In light of the Covid-19 March-June 2020 closure, the criteria will be modified and a total of at least 10 points is required from the grid below:

Points	3	2	1
Attendance (Between 9/1/2019 - 3/6/2020)	95%+	93%	91%
Mathematics Teacher Recommendation	Y		N
Grade 7 Mid-Year iReady	525+	515-524	505-514
Grade 7 Report Card Average of Three Quarters	95+	92-94	88-91

Accelerated Grade 8 Science Course

Current grade 7 scholars must score 10 or above on the matrix below to qualify for Accelerated Grade 7 Science Coursework:

Points	3	2	1
Attendance	95%+	93%	91%
Science Learning Survey - Teacher	21-24	18-20	
Grade 7 Final Exam	92+	88-91	85-87

Grade 7 Report Card Average of Four Quarters	95+	92-94	88-91
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In light of the Covid-19 March-June 2020 closure, the criteria will be modified and a total of at least 7 points is required from the grid below:

Points	3	2	1
Attendance (Between 9/1/19 and 3/6/20)	95%+	93%	91%
Teacher Recommendation	Y		N
Grade 7 Final Exam (Not calculated for 2019-2020)	92+	88-91	85-87
Grade 7 Report Card Average Quarters 1-3	95+	92-94	88-91

Accelerated Grade 8 Social Studies Course

Current grade 7 scholars that refuse the ELA state test must score 10 or above on the matrix below to qualify for Accelerated Grade 8. Current grade 7 scholars that take the ELA test must score 12 or above on the matrix below to qualify for Accelerated Grade 8. * Please note that for the 2020-21 school year, the US History Regents course offering will only be available at **South Middle School**.

Social Studies Coursework:

Points	3	2	1
Attendance	95%+	93%	91%
Social Studies Teacher Recommendation	Y		N
Grade 7 Final Exam	92+	88-91	85-87
Grade 7 Report Card Average of Four Quarters	95+	92-94	88-91
NYS ELA 7 results	4	3	2

In light of the Covid-19 March-June 2020 closure, the criteria will be modified and a total of at least 10 points is required from the grid below:

Points	3	2	1
Attendance (9/1/20-3/6/20)	95%+	93%	91%
Social Studies Teacher Recommendation	Y		N
Grade 7 mid-year ELA iReady*	653+	635-652	631-634
Grade 7 Report Card Average of Quarters 1-3	95+	92-94	88-91

**Reading Placements - Comprehension Informational*

Accelerated Grade 8 Spanish Language Arts (SLA 8) Course

Grade 7 grade scholars must score a total of at least 10 points from the grid below to qualify for Accelerated Grade 8 SLA Course

Points	3	2	1
Attendance	95%+	93%	91%
Checkpoint A	90+	80-89	70-79
Teacher Recommendation	Y		N
Grade 7 Report Card Average of Four Quarters	4	3	2

In light of the Covid-19 March-June 2020 closure, the criteria will be modified and a total of at least 10 points is required from the grid below:

Points	3	2	1
Attendance (between 9/1 - 3/06)	95%+	93%	91%
Checkpoint A	90+	80-89	70-79
Teacher Recommendation	Y		N
Grade 7 Report Card Average of Quarters 1-3	4	3	2

*Current grade 7 scholars who attend SLA 7 must satisfactorily pass SLA 6, SLA 7, and Checkpoint A to qualify for Accelerated Grade 8 (SLA 8). Students who are successful in this coursework and exams will receive 2 LOTE credits.

Students who do not pass the SLA 7 course and/or Checkpoint A at the end of 7th grade would have to be enrolled in Spanish 1 for 8th grade.



CRITERIA FOR REMAINING ENROLLED IN THE ACCELERATED COURSES PROGRAM

Once enrolled in accelerated coursework, a scholar must maintain a minimum of an 85% average for two full quarters to stay in the program.

If the first marking period grade is less than 85%, a warning letter will be sent to the scholar's parents/guardians by the student's teacher. The warning letter will state that if the scholar continues to perform below an 85% average at the end of the second quarter, the scholar will be removed from the accelerated course for that subject.

If at the end of the second quarter, the scholar has not achieved the 85% average, then the second and final warning letter will be sent to the parents/guardians, by the scholar's teacher. This letter will state that the scholar will be removed from the accelerated course, in that specific subject, and placed in the general program.

There is an appeal form provided through guidance if parents disagree with this decision.

After a student has been dismissed, participation in the Accelerated Courses Program for the subsequent school year may be approved at the discretion of the school principal.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Newburgh Enlarged City School District does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, creed, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship status, age, marital status,

partnership status, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, sexual orientation, gender (sex), military status, veteran status, domestic violence victim status or political affiliation, and additionally does not discriminate against students on the basis of weight, gender identity, gender expression, and religious practices or any other basis prohibited by New York State and/or federal non-discrimination laws in employment or its programs and activities. The District provides equal access to community and youth organizations. If one has questions or wants to make an inquiry regarding discrimination, including harassment, contact any one of the following: Mr. Michael McLymore, Dr. Pedro Roman or Mary Ellen Leimer at 124 Grand St., Newburgh, NY 12550, telephone 845-563-3460, or email mmclymor@necsd.net.