

# **Northern Burlington County Regional School District**



**Middle School  
Program of Studies  
2020-2021**

# NORTHERN BURLINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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### DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Amy Stella	AFJROTC	<a href="mailto:astella@nburlington.com">astella@nburlington.com</a>	x2016
Christopher Cataline	Health and Physical Education	<a href="mailto:ccataline@nburlington.com">ccataline@nburlington.com</a>	x2212
Deborah Droke	Mathematics, Science	<a href="mailto:ddroke@nburlington.com">ddroke@nburlington.com</a>	x2220
Matthew Konowicz	21st Century Life & Career Skills, Visual & Performing Arts	<a href="mailto:mkonowicz@nburlington.com">mkonowicz@nburlington.com</a>	x2008
Sally Lopez, Ed.D.	World Languages	<a href="mailto:slopez@nburlington.com">slopez@nburlington.com</a>	x2046
Caitlin Mallory	Student Personnel Services	<a href="mailto:cmallory@nburlington.com">cmallory@nburlington.com</a>	x2055
Holly Post	Special Services	<a href="mailto:hpost@nburlington.com">hpost@nburlington.com</a>	x2026
Leslie Puente-Ervin, Ed.D.	English/Language Arts, Social Studies, AP Program, Gifted & Talented, Media Center	<a href="mailto:lpuente-ervin@nburlington.com">lpuente-ervin@nburlington.com</a>	x2074

### BUILDING ADMINISTRATORS

Andrew Kearns, Ed.D.	Principal	<a href="mailto:akearns@nburlington.com">akearns@nburlington.com</a>	x4001
Susan Grater	Assistant Principal	<a href="mailto:sgrater@nburlington.com">sgrater@nburlington.com</a>	x4002
Daniel Uszaki, Ed.D.	Athletic Director/Assistant Principal	<a href="mailto:duszaki@nburlington.com">duszaki@nburlington.com</a>	x4003

### COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Zara Irwin	Counselor	<a href="mailto:zirwin@nburlington.com">zirwin@nburlington.com</a>	x4024
Timothy Tedesco	Counselor	<a href="mailto:ttedesco@nburlington.com">ttedesco@nburlington.com</a>	x4023
Shannon Baker	Secretary	<a href="mailto:sbaker@nburlington.com">sbaker@nburlington.com</a>	x4020



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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Students,

Northern Burlington County Regional Middle school provides a curriculum designed to challenge, excite, and prepare students for achieving their personal best. This Program of Studies is a description of courses that will be available in the 2020-2021 school year. Many specific courses are required for students in grades 7 and 8. However, there are ample opportunities to select additional courses that meet special interests, aptitudes, or future goals.

Please take the time to review the information carefully and select courses wisely. Our counseling and teaching staff will be here to help you along the way.

I wish you much success in the days and months ahead. We all stand ready to assist our students in reaching their goals.

*Andrew Kearns, Ed. D.*

## OUR MISSION

The Northern Burlington County Regional School District, in shared alliance with home and community, is to establish a dynamic and challenging academic environment that promotes lifelong learning. Our school will provide a safe and welcoming atmosphere where everyone is empowered to be a creative, independent, critical thinker and a responsible citizen in a rapidly changing global society.

## OUR BELIEFS

We believe that all students have the right to an education in a safe and caring environment where learning is valued.

We believe that our students are our community's most valuable asset and our educators are our most valuable resource.

We believe that professional and personal growth creates a culture of lifelong learning.

We believe that an individualized, challenging curriculum is the foundation of an academically enriched, student-centered environment which supports all learners.

We believe in developing a culture that respects and honors the uniqueness of the individual and fosters responsibility toward the community while guiding students to meet their potential.

We believe all students must be conscientious, respectful, and purposeful users of information and communication technologies.

We believe that schools share the responsibility with home and community in teaching and modeling ethical behavior as well as positive social and academic skills.

**Inspire the Desire...**  
**...One Student at a Time**

## INTRODUCTION

The Program of Studies serves as a reference guide for parents, students, and counselors who work collaboratively to make appropriate course selections. Parents and students are encouraged to contact their counselor with questions regarding the selection process or programs offered.

## PROMOTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Students in **seventh grade** must achieve a passing grade for the year in the following courses to be promoted to the succeeding grade level:

- Math 7/Advanced Math 7
- Science 7
- Social Studies 7
- English/Language Arts 7
- Geometry and Probability 7
- English/Language Arts Composition 7

Students in **eighth grade** must achieve a passing grade for the year in the following courses to be promoted to the succeeding grade level:

- Math 8/Algebra I
- Science 8
- Social Studies 8
- English/Language Arts 8
- Geometry and Probability 8
- English/Language Arts Composition 8

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

New Jersey regulations (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1) require all students to demonstrate proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, and in Science (in Grade 8). To qualify for a high school diploma, students must meet the NJ high school graduation assessment requirements as described here: <http://tinyurl.com/t4f67tk>

## MASTER SCHEDULE

The master schedule and staffing are determined by student course selections. Therefore, it is essential that students choose courses that genuinely reflect their interests, while meeting academic requirements. The administrative team reserves the right to designate student placements including elective courses. Consistent with the process, students are expected to complete the Course Selection sheet including identifying alternate elective choices. The Course Selection Sheet, **signed** by a parent/guardian, must be submitted **by March 31st**.

## COURSE REQUEST CHANGES

The administrative team reserves the right to designate student placements. Requests for course selection changes will not be honored after **June 1<sup>st</sup>**.

## ATHLETICS & ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY

The Northern Burlington Middle School recognizes the value of student participation in interscholastic sports, clubs, and activities. Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are eligible for activities during the first semester.
- Eligibility for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for the first semester is determined by the previous year's final grades.
- After the first semester, students not passing two or more classes required for promotion lose eligibility to participate in sports and activities.
- Once a student begins a winter sport, he/she will be permitted to complete it.
- Students who are involved in a full year activity can continue until the end of the third marking period. Examples of full year activities include Student Congress and the Chess Club.

## SUMMER COURSES FOR REMEDIATION

Summer classes or private tutoring can be pursued to remediate a course(s) required for promotion. Students who did not successfully complete a required course(s), and did not successfully complete a remediation program, will be required to repeat the grade level. The Counseling Office provides assistance with the enrollment process for various opportunities for remediation. All summer courses must receive administrative approval prior to enrollment. Information for enrollment is available in the Counseling Office. Students must complete summer courses and the Counseling Office must receive the final grade(s) prior to **September 1st** to be promoted to the next grade level. Parents are responsible for all summer course and transportation costs (if applicable).

## COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

District policy permits students to receive high school credits for high school level math and high school level world language courses. Students must earn a final course grade of B or greater to receive high school credit. *Courses taken for high school credit during middle school do not fulfill high school graduation requirements and are not factored into high school grade point average.*

## GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

### Resources Offered for Gifted and Talented Education (ROGATE)

Resources Offered for Gifted and Talented Education (ROGATE) enriches students' education with an appropriately challenging curriculum. In order to be considered to participate, students must meet or exceed scores for eligibility on the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT3) and the Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT), the criteria established in board of education regulations governing gifted and talented students. Critical skills in higher-level thinking, communication, and research are developed through a course of study that requires individual initiative.

NOTE: Resources Offered for Gifted and Talented Education (ROGATE) will replace an elective.

## **GRADE 7 REQUIRED COURSES**

### **English/Language Arts 7 (0417)**

English/Language Arts 7 promotes students' abilities to construct meaning from various texts. Students learn how their sensory experiences contribute to the reading process. Logical and creative thinking is encouraged to help students understand written text, to more effectively communicate, to actively listen, and to evaluate and apply knowledge in a variety of genres of writing.

### **English/Language Arts 7 Composition (0418)**

#### **Semester**

English/Language Arts 7 Composition develops students' writing skills. Students participate in the five stages of the writing process and explore various genres of writing including narrative, persuasive and research writing. Students produce literary essays, short constructed responses and creative pieces throughout the course. Course material complements English/Language Arts 7.

### **Math 7 (0302)**

Math 7 develops students' problem solving skills and ability to reason and communicate proficiently in mathematics. Topics include integers, rational numbers, algebraic properties and expressions, equations and inequalities, proportional reasoning, percents and statistics. Students will also learn how to use the mathematical practices to further develop and deepen their understanding of these mathematical concepts.

### **Advanced Math 7 (0303)**

Advanced Math 7 is an accelerated mathematics course offered to seventh grade students. Students will accelerate through the 7th and 8th grade standards (operations with rational numbers and exponents (including roots), proportionality, linear equations, inequalities and functions, as well as introduce sampling and making inferences about data) necessary for a solid foundation for High School courses such as Algebra 1. Students interested in this course should be motivated and independent learners of mathematics who have consistently met or exceeded expectations in standardized assessments as well as classroom performance.

### **Geometry & Probability 7 (0635)**

#### **Semester**

Geometry & Probability 7 provides in depth instruction and application in solving real-world geometry problems and understanding probability. Students will understand congruence, similarity, and use algebra to solve for unknown values. Two-dimensional geometry topics include angle relationships, perimeter, circumference and area; three-dimensional geometry topics include volume and surface area of polyhedrons and composite figures. Students will also learn to investigate, develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

### **Science 7 (0501)**

Science 7 enhances students' scientific literacy and investigative skills through an integrated approach to life and physical science. Content is intertwined with scientific and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts, in this laboratory-based course, to support students' ability to explain ideas across the science disciplines. Students design and execute investigations, organize and analyze data and information, make decisions, and create arguments from evidence.

## **Global Studies (0202)**

Global Studies is a hybrid course which blends the study of the Earth's physical and cultural geography with in-depth discussion of current events, economies, governments, civics and some exploration into early World History. Students will work toward growth in the areas of research, document analysis, map skills, and interpreting information from a variety of sources. The course also fosters an appreciation of what it means to be an American citizen and tolerance and understanding for other cultures.

## **Health and Physical Education (0902/0907/0905)**

Health and Physical Education addresses the physical, emotional, and social needs of the student. The Health curriculum addresses wellness including positive responses to group and peer pressure, disease prevention, and other major health concerns. In Physical Education, students participate in activities, sports, and FitnessGram fitness testing. Students take three (3) quarters of physical education and one (1) quarter of health.

## **Apps for Academics (0718)**

### **Semester**

Apps for Academics advance students' knowledge and skills with computer applications that will be used in other academic courses in middle school and into high school. This includes, but is not limited to, Microsoft Office, Google Apps for Education, and digital citizenship. Reflecting the evolving world of technology, the topics of instruction may change in accordance with advances in this field.

## **World Language (Select One)**

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, the World Language classes complete one-quarter of a Level I course. The remaining three-quarters are taught in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. With the successful completion of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade courses, students are prepared for Level II language courses in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Students select Chinese, French, or Spanish, and are introduced to basic vocabulary, grammatical structure and pronunciation.

### **Semester**

#### **Chinese (0553A)**

Chinese introduces students to Mandarin. Emphasis is placed on the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing Chinese characters. Language learning is presented through the use of thematic units. Culture is an integral part of the course.

#### **French (0554A)**

French introduces students to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing elementary French. The target language is presented through thematic units. The culture of French-speaking countries is an integral part of the course.

#### **Spanish (0550A)**

Spanish introduces students to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing elementary Spanish. The target language is presented through thematic units. Culture is an integral part of the course.

### **Full Year**

#### **Spanish for Native Speakers (0557)**

This course is for students who speak Spanish at home. This course emphasizes the reading and writing skills necessary for heritage speakers to become more proficient in the native language. Placement in this course is determined by the Director of Instruction for World Language. This course meets daily throughout the year.

## Available Additional Courses

### English as a Second Language (ESL) (5007)

English as a Second Language supports non-English speaking students in their acquisition of the English language. Students are identified through the WIDA ACCESS placement test. Students who qualify for ELS are scheduled for this in place of an elective.

## GRADE 7 ELECTIVE COURSES

Select One 7th Grade Elective
Band
Chorus
<u>Quarter Cycle</u> Agriscience 7, Art 7, Music & Media 7, Pathways to Success

### Concert Band (0708)

Concert Band is an instrumental ensemble for novice and intermediate band students. The focus of the class is to develop and refine fundamental playing technique through the use of methods, études, and band literature. The class concentrates on developing knowledge of basic music theory and the application of that knowledge into performance. The Concert Band performs at several events outside of the regular school day. Participation in these events is required.

Note: All students interested in learning an instrument for the first time, or who already have experience, will meet with Northern's band instructor to select an instrument or demonstrate skill proficiency. This required springtime audition and placement is designed to challenge a student's abilities and best allow the student to be successful.

### Advanced Band (0711)

Advanced Band is an instrumental ensemble for experienced band students. The focus of the class is to develop and refine individual and ensemble performance techniques through the use of methods, études, and band literature. The class concentrates on developing knowledge of basic music theory and the application of that knowledge into performance. The Advanced Band performs at several events outside of the regular school day. Participation in these events is required.

Note: All students interested in learning an instrument for the first time, or who already have experience, will meet with Northern's band instructor to select an instrument or demonstrate skill proficiency. This required springtime audition and placement is designed to challenge a student's abilities and best allow the student to be successful.

### Chorus (0735)

Chorus is designed for students interested in choral singing. Students also study the fundamentals of music with a strong emphasis on music reading. A wide variety of musical styles and their correct performance techniques are explored. Participation and performances at evening concerts are required.

## **QUARTER CYCLE**

### **Agriscience 7 (0819)**

Agriscience 7 introduces students to the concept, "Agriculture is all around us." Students explore broad topics in Agriculture, Environmental Science, Plant Science and Animal Science. Leadership applications and exposure to the variety of careers in agriculture are infused within each unit. Lab activities and projects help students to make additional connections to agriculture in their lives.

### **Art 7 (0740)**

Art 7 instills a beginning foundation in the use of art's elements and principles with a focus on drawing, color theory and composition. Students develop core drawing techniques and application of artistic skills.

### **Music and Media 7 (0731)**

Music and Media 7 explores the development of early forms of media and evaluates how music supported them. Students will study the basic elements and styles of music as well as the history and development of silent films, radio, and television broadcasting. Opportunities include the creation and analyses of such media.

### **Pathways to Success (0100)**

Pathways to Success is designed to provide students tools to achieve success in their academic pursuits. Students will be exposed to goal setting, time management, test preparation, note-taking, organization, listening, and test-taking strategies. Students can apply techniques learned in Pathways to Success to their daily coursework.

## **GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM**

### **Resources Offered for Gifted and Talented Education (ROGATE)**

Resources Offered for Gifted and Talented Education (ROGATE) enriches students' education with an appropriately challenging curriculum. In order to be considered to participate, students must meet or exceed scores for eligibility on the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT3) and the Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT), the criteria established in board of education regulations governing gifted and talented students. Critical skills in higher-level thinking, communication, and research are developed through a course of study that requires individual initiative. Once a student qualifies for the program, admittance may be deferred.

NOTE: Resources Offered for Gifted and Talented Education (ROGATE) will replace an elective.

## **GRADE 8 REQUIRED COURSES**

### **English/Language Arts 8 (0419)**

English/Language Arts 8 is an integrated Language Arts course that promotes students' ability to construct meaning from various texts. The course also advances students' writing skills, utilizing multiple writing genres in connection to course reading. Students apply and analyze visual and spoken information as they develop these skills.

### **English/Language Arts 8 Composition (0420)**

#### **Semester**

English/Language Arts 8 Composition develops students' writing skills. Students participate in the five stages of the writing process and continue to build and strengthen their writing capacity as evolving writers. Students produce a variety of writing pieces in preparation for the complexities and rigor of high school level writing. Course material complements English/Language Arts 8.

### **Math 8 (0307)**

Math 8 prepares students for success in a high school college preparatory program. Students develop their ability to reason and communicate proficiently in mathematics. The course includes algebra topics of linear relationships modeled by equations and graphs, solving linear equations and inequalities, exponential relationships, data analysis, rational and irrational numbers, integer exponents and radicals, solving systems of equations, and deepening students' understanding of defining, evaluating, and comparing functions.

### **Algebra 1 (0330)**

#### **Credits: 5**

*Multiple measures are examined to determine placement into Algebra 1 prior to High School..*

Algebra 1 is a required High School course and provides the foundation for future mathematics courses. Major topics include solving linear equations, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, solving and graphing absolute value equations and inequalities, using functions and inequalities as mathematical models, and solving real world problems with exponential functions, polynomials and quadratics. Students who complete Algebra prior to High School must maintain a B or greater to receive High School credit for Algebra 1.

### **Geometry & Probability 8 (0320)**

#### **Semester**

Geometry & Probability 8 provides in depth instruction and application in solving real-world geometry problems. Students will understand congruence, similarity, and the use of the Pythagorean Theorem. Two-dimensional geometry topics include angle relationships and transformations; three-dimensional geometry topics include volume and surface area.

### **Science 8 (0506)**

Science 8 enhances students' scientific literacy and investigative skills through an integrated approach to earth and physical science. Content is intertwined with scientific and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts, in this laboratory-based course, to support students' ability to explain ideas across the science disciplines. Students design and execute investigations, organize and analyze data and information, make decisions, and create arguments from evidence.

### **American History (0207)**

American History concentrates on the development of the United States and continues through the American Civil War. Students learn the prominent variables that contributed to the country's development and the major issues that produced its only war on American soil.

### **Health and Physical Education (0904/0908)**

Health and Physical Education addresses the physical, emotional, and social needs of the student. The Health curriculum addresses wellness including positive responses to group and peer pressure, disease prevention, and other major health concerns. In Physical Education, students participate in activities, sports, and FitnessGram fitness testing. Students take three (3) quarters of physical education and one (1) quarter of health.

### **Available Additional Courses**

#### **English as a Second Language (ESL) (5007)**

English as a Second Language supports non-English speaking students in their acquisition of the English language. Students are identified through the WIDA ACCESS placement test. Students who qualify for ELS are scheduled for this in place of an elective.

## **GRADE 8 ELECTIVE COURSES**

8th Grade Elective Choices	
Select: 2 Full Year <b>or</b> 1 Full Year and 2 Semester <b>or</b> 4 Semester	
Band	Full Year
Chorus	
Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources	
World Language	
Agriscience 8	Semester
Art 8	
Applied Technology	
Business and Careers	
Music and Media 8	
Theatre Arts	

## **FULL YEAR ELECTIVES**

### **Introduction to Agricultural, Food, and Natural Resources (0817)**

The *Introduction to Agriscience, Food, and Natural Resources* course is the introductory course within the Curriculum for Agriculture and Science Education (CASE) Program of Study. Students are introduced to animal science, plant science, natural resources, and agricultural technology and systems. Students explore FFA, leadership and science in agriculture.

### **Concert Band (0708)**

Concert Band is an instrumental ensemble for novice and intermediate band students. The focus of the class is to develop and refine fundamental playing technique through the use of methods, études, and band literature. The class concentrates on developing knowledge of basic music theory and the application of that knowledge into performance. The Concert Band performs at several events outside of the regular school day. Participation in these events is required.

Note: All students interested in learning an instrument for the first time, or who already have experience, will meet with Northern's band instructor to select an instrument or demonstrate skill proficiency. This required springtime audition and placement is designed to challenge a student's abilities and best allow the student to be successful.

### **Advanced Band (0711)**

Advanced Band is an instrumental ensemble for experienced band students. The focus of the class is to develop and refine individual and ensemble performance techniques through the use of methods, études, and band literature. The class concentrates on developing knowledge of basic music theory and the application of that knowledge into performance. The Advanced Band performs at several events outside of the regular school day. Participation in these events is required.

Note: All students interested in learning an instrument for the first time, or who already have experience, will meet with Northern's band instructor to select an instrument or demonstrate skill proficiency. This required springtime audition and placement is designed to challenge a student's abilities and best allow the student to be successful.

### **Wind Ensemble (0703)**

Wind Ensemble refines and develops individual and group instrumental performance techniques. Through the use of methods, études, and band literature appropriate to the level of the group, students develop knowledge of music theory and its application to performances. The Wind Ensemble performs at several events outside of the regular school day. Participation in these events is required.

Note: All students interested in learning an instrument for the first time, or who already have experience, will meet with Northern's band instructor to select an instrument or demonstrate skill proficiency. This required springtime audition and placement is designed to challenge a student's abilities and best allow the student to be successful.

### **Chorus (0735)**

Chorus is designed for students interested in choral singing. Students also study the fundamentals of music with a strong emphasis on music reading. A wide variety of musical styles and their correct performance techniques are explored. Participation and performances at evening concerts are required.

## **WORLD LANGUAGE**

8<sup>th</sup> grade World Language completes the second part of a level I course. Students will receive high school credit if they earn a final grade of B or greater and advance to the language's level II in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. This process enables students to pursue AP or Level V coursework in the selected language. Enrollment may impact World Language offerings.

### **Chinese (0553)**

#### **Credits: 5**

Chinese introduces students to Mandarin. Emphasis in this course is on the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing Chinese characters. Language learning is presented through the use of thematic units. Culture is an integral part of the course.

### **French (0554)**

#### **Credits: 5**

French introduces students to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing elementary French. The target language is presented through thematic units. The culture of French-speaking countries is an integral part of the course.

### **Spanish (0550)**

#### **Credits: 5**

Spanish introduces students to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing elementary Spanish. The target language is presented through thematic units. Culture is an integral part of the course.

### **Spanish for Native Speakers**

#### **Grade 8 (0551)**

This course is for students who speak Spanish at home. This course emphasizes the reading and writing skills necessary for heritage speakers to become more proficient in the native language. Placement in this course is determined by the Director of Instruction for World Language.

## **SEMESTER ELECTIVES**

### **Agriscience 8 (0818)**

#### **Semester**

Agriscience 8 fosters the idea that "Agriculture is essential for life" through exploring United States Agriculture, Global Agriculture, Forestry, Plant Propagation, and Animal Science. The course provides foundational knowledge about where products come from and the diversity of agriculture. Students are encouraged to develop their critical thinking, communication and leadership skills as they explore these topics.

### **Art 8 (0706)**

#### **Semester**

Art 8 introduces students to its basic creative principles. Through personal creations, such as 2-D drawings and 3-D ceramic projects, students develop the foundational skills that expand their artistic capacity. This course inspires skills development in creative problem solving, long term planning, and abstract thought processes.

## **Applied Technology Education (0717)**

### **Semester**

Applied Technology engages students in the hands-on application of problem solving through the use of critical thinking and creative design. By exploring systems, topics such as transportation, communication, manufacturing, and construction, this course establishes a strong foundation for students interested in studying high school courses in Engineering, Materials, Video, Industrial Design, Architecture, and Graphic Design.

## **Business and Careers (0722)**

### **Semester**

Business and Careers provides students with an understanding of business concepts like entrepreneurship and starting a private company, while exploring exciting careers. Activities include investigating how to solve business problems, discuss different business types, and use marketing and advertising to sell products and services. Students also identify, assess, and practice career ready skills essential to lifelong success. This discovery based course establishes a strong foundation for students interested in the study of Accounting, Contemporary Business, or Marketing in the high school. Online personal interest surveys will identify a variety of matching career clusters and possible career paths.

## **Music and Media 8 (0732)**

### **Semester**

Music and Media 8 explores the development of early forms of media and evaluates how music supported them. Students will study the basic elements and styles of music as well as the history and development of audio devices, film, popular music, and live productions. Opportunities include the creation and analyses of such media.

## **Theatre Arts (0440)**

### **Semester**

Theatre Arts explores the fundamental techniques of acting. Through the use of pantomime, scene development, and play production, this activity driven class inspires student self confidence through skills development, class performances and peer review.

## **GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM**

### **Resources Offered for Gifted and Talented Education (ROGATE)**

Resources Offered for Gifted and Talented Education (ROGATE) enriches students' education with an appropriately challenging curriculum. In order to be considered to participate, students must meet or exceed scores for eligibility on the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT3) and the Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT), the criteria established in board of education regulations governing gifted and talented students. Critical skills in higher-level thinking, communication, and research are developed through a course of study that requires individual initiative. Once a student qualifies for the program, admittance may be deferred.

NOTE: Resources Offered for Gifted and Talented Education (ROGATE) will replace an elective.