

Pathways to Excellence



Enrichment Specialists:

Lisa Lesiak, Coordinator
Kim Scutieri
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Services provided by the Pathways Staff:

Grades 3-5 P2E SESSIONS

Identified students in grades 3-5 meet with an enrichment specialist for approximately 3 hours per week to foster critical and creative thinking skills. Interdisciplinary lessons are planned focusing on a particular theme for the year. In addition, inquiry-based tasks, service learning opportunities, differentiated projects and products are offered to the students in conjunction with the weekly lessons when appropriate.

Grades 3-5 MATH COMPACTING

Enrichment specialists are responsible for training the teachers in the math compacting model and offers support by providing resources, teaching model lessons, and assisting with implementation into the classrooms.

GRADE 3-5 WRITING ENRICHMENT

Enrichment specialists collaborate with classroom teachers to present writing enrichment lessons for one hour each week. Services are provided for those classes that have identified Pathways students. Lessons are designed focusing on a specific theme/skill per month.

Grade 6 MATH

Identified students meet with an enrichment specialist for one period per week. Extension lessons are aligned with the grade level curriculum and allow the students to apply the skills learned in class, as well as provide challenging material. In addition, the enrichment specialist works with the classroom teacher on differentiation strategies to ensure a rigorous curriculum for the exceptionally-able students.

Grade 6 INVESTIGATIONS

Identified students meet with an enrichment specialist for one period per week. Lessons are focused around a theme that carries throughout the year and are aligned with the grade level curriculum. Students are instructed on higher-level reading and writing. The enrichment specialist is available as a resource for the classroom teacher to conduct mini-lessons, collaborate on extension lessons, and to discuss differentiation strategies and independent projects for those students working above the grade level curriculum.

Grades 7 and 8 INVESTIGATIONS

Identified 7th grade Pathways students will meet with an enrichment specialist for one full marking period (approximately 45 days) and 8th grade Pathways students will meet for one trimester (approximately 60 days). Lessons are aligned with a theme that carries throughout the year and the 21st century skills of communication, collaboration, creative problem solving, and critical thinking are incorporated into the curriculum.

Grades 3-8 FIELD EXPERIENCES

Students have opportunities to participate in various field experiences and convocations throughout the year. The “Discovery Days” are organized by the Pathways staff and are aligned with the yearly theme. These activities provide students an opportunity to participate in real-world experiences. The convocations are sponsored and presented by members of the Union County Gifted and Talented Association. Students meet and work with other gifted students from neighboring towns to collaborate on problem-solving tasks, critical/creative thinking activities, and team-building exercises.

Grades 3-8 SCHOOL-WIDE ENRICHMENT

The enrichment specialists conduct half day grade-wide enrichment events at the request of the building principals. These events allow all students to participate in team-building activities as well as expose them to critical thinking challenges.

Grades 3-5 LUNCH AND LEARN SESSIONS

The Pathways Staff is responsible for planning and organizing lunch-time enrichment sessions throughout the year (previously known as Brown Bag Lunches). All students in grades 3-5 are invited to attend. In most cases, guest speakers are invited to share their expertise and knowledge. The topics are advertised in advance and interested students must register and obtain a permission slip to attend. These sessions offer the students exposure to a variety of different topics and allow them to develop skills, explore careers, and to discover new hobbies.

SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS

The enrichment specialists are available to support teachers in differentiation strategies by providing professional development opportunities, conducting model lessons, researching enrichment lessons on a particular topic, or team-teaching a lesson utilizing higher level thinking skills.