



**WOODLAND HILLS
JR. HIGH SCHOOL
PROGRAM FOR
GIFTED STUDENTS**

Potential GIEP Strategies 2009-10

PERFORMING ARTS

**ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS
AND SEMINARS**

LAW01 - THEATER PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP (2) - In each class, students will be involved in activities dealing with one of the three major areas of drama: pantomime, voice, and improvisation. Students who are part of this workshop may sign up for the ESSPA Forensics tournament (LAT01).

**ACADEMIC
TOURNAMENTS**

LAT01 – ESSPA FORENSICS TOURNAMENT (1) - Students will choose a reading in the category of poetry, prose or duo drama (team competition). Their reading may be humorous or dramatic. Individual pieces will be 2-4 minutes and the team competition will be 3-6 minutes. Participants will be chosen based on a tryout.

LANGUAGE ARTS, EDUCATION, CREATIVITY & REASONING SKILLS

**ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS,
SEMINARS AND PROJECTS**

LAW02 - SHAKESPEARE (2) - Students will learn the history of Shakespeare, read and discuss sonnets, writing style, literary elements and common themes found in Shakespeare's works, and read/watch a play.

LAW03 - SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL (3) – The students will read one novel by a noteworthy author and discuss their literary and scientific significance. Both an English and Science teacher will conduct the discussions so that both perspectives are considered in the discussion.

LAW04 - WRITING SHORT STORIES (2) - Students will study a number of literary techniques as they have been used by skilled writers and will also employ them creatively within their own work. Emphasis on: character development, conflict, point of view, setting, theme, tone and mood, and style.

LAW05 – POETRY (2) - In this seminar, selections of poetry will be presented to illustrate the various poetic devices that can be employed by young writers. Concentration in this seminar will be on form and technique. Students will be encouraged to develop their own styles and submit selected works for publication.

LAW06 - S.A.T. PREP (2) – Teachers of both content areas will provide the student with a variety of testing tactics to use in making the S.A.T. as pleasant a challenge as possible. Students will practice strategies to increase their own SAT verbal and math scores. Individual weaknesses will be addressed as students are given specific drills and suggested strategies which they can continue independently. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a practice S.A.T. test and may be chosen as a participant in the CTY Talent Search sponsored by Johns Hopkins University.

LAW07 – LITERATURE SEMINAR / JR. GREAT BOOKS (3) - In this class students will use the Junior Great Books series. The method of shared inquiry will be implemented as they read short stories, take notes, analyze important words and passages, and discuss questions and ideas about the story with their classmates. There may be a 7th and 8th grade session of this class as numbers permit.

LAE01 – POET-IN-PERSON SEMINAR (1) – A local published poet will work with students for three one-hour sessions. Students will have the opportunity to write poetry, have it edited by the poet and read it aloud to the group. This selection may be made in conjunction with creative writing or independently.

LAP01 – GIFTED GAZETTE JR. NEWSLETTER PROJECT (1) - A newspaper staff will be assembled to publish one to two gifted program newsletters. Students may participate as editors, writers, photographers or graphics and layout specialists. Students will have an opportunity to learn Microsoft Publisher software. Student writers will be trained through three introductory workshops. Newsletters will be released in January and May.

ACADEMIC TOURNAMENTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS
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LAT02 - ESSPA CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST(1) – Students prepare a polished writing piece to be entered into competition with thirteen local school districts. ESSPA includes both a prose and a poetry category. Mentorship in creative writing is available through the gifted program language arts teachers. Students should remember that if they register for this contest, they need to turn in a piece of work for the contest.

LAT03 - CREATIVE CONVENTION (1)– This event encourages students to develop divergent and creative expression. Each creative convention includes a word game, a drawing exercise, a construction, plus a performance. Students should be able to draw quickly and clearly with style, construct usable devices from recycled materials and act, sing or dance with lots of pizzazz. Students are scored in each event on their ability to display fluent, flexible, elaborate and original thinking. Fluency relates to the number of ideas produced, flexibility to the variety of ideas produced, elaboration to the degree of detail incorporated and originality to the uniqueness of the ideas or products created. Students may be chosen to attend the AIU 3 Creative Convention Event by participating in a mock Creative Convention Event.

SOCIAL STUDIES, LEADERSHIP & CURRENT EVENTS
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ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS
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SSW01 - CURRENT EVENTS/QUIZ (2) – Students meet weekly to learn about current events and world affairs. Students will create a team notebook that contains important facts from the weekly topics. The class will end with a Quiz Bowl in which students will compete in teams and answer questions from topics of the seminar. Highest scoring students may have the opportunity to compete in the ESSPA Academic Challenge competition.

SSW02 – PROPAGANDA I (3) – This seminar is designed to introduce students to the techniques employed by the advertising industry to influence the general public by distorting the thinking process. Students will begin to identify the various techniques of propaganda used in print and television advertisement including techniques of self-deception, language, irrelevance, exploitation, form, and maneuver. Highest scoring students may have the opportunity to compete in the ESSPA Propaganda competition.

SST04 – PROPAGANDA II (3) - This seminar is for 8th grade students who have already completed SS02. Students will have the opportunity to review the techniques of propaganda, practice the game and create their own examples of propaganda. Highest scoring students may have the opportunity to compete in the ESSPA Propaganda competition.

SSW03 – LAW I (2) – Students will be introduced to the basic terminology, courtroom procedure, the application of our legal system, and the role of the Constitution as it applies to the citizens of the United States. This course is usually comprised of 7th grade students.

SSW04 – LAW II (2) – Students who enroll in Law II must have already taken Law I as a prerequisite. They will use the knowledge they gained in Law I to prepare a case for a Mock Trial. The students will serve as lawyers and witnesses and create opening statements, direct and cross-examination questions, and closing arguments.

SSP01 - MOCK TRIAL (1) – This special event will involve a continuation of the Law II course. Students will do final preparation and compete against each other in a Mock Trial.

SSW05 – AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY CONTEST DESIGN (3) – This seminar will present students with a general knowledge of events in African American history and explore the past and present the African American culture from slavery through the present day. Students will plan, design and coordinate a school-wide African-American History Contest.

SSW06 – GEOGRAPHY (2) – Geography is made interesting, easy and informative. Students who sign up for this course will gain understanding of the basics of geography. This will help students to understand events of today and help them to grasp the changes that are taking place. Each year, one area of the world is selected for the class. This year the area is the Middle East.

SSE01 – WORLD AFFAIRS STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM (1) – This event is sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh. In order to participate in the conference, students must complete an individual project related to the area of the world that the conference will focus on. This year's focus will be on Europe. Students will also attend a presentation by a guest speaker in school prior to the event.

SSW06 – PSYCHOLOGY (2) - This seminar will present students with a general knowledge of psychology and introduce them to case studies, brain processes, personality profiles and personal learning styles. Students will also learn about theories and concepts related to human development.

ACADEMIC TOURNAMENTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS
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SST01 – ACADEMIC CHALLENGE (1) – This event sponsored by ESSPA is a contest of quick recall and general knowledge of all subject areas. Rounds consist of both oral and written format with points being awarded for both individual and group responses. Students taking SS01 (Current Events) and who would like to be considered for this tournament will take a qualifying test.

SST02 – FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING (3) – Students work as a group and use various techniques involved in the problem solving process to attempt to solve problems on the local, state, national, and international levels. This seminar affords the student an excellent opportunity to interact with students within their own school and possibly from other school districts. Students will research a specific problem area.

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

ACADEMIC TOURNAMENTS, SPECIAL EVENTS AND FIELD EXPERIENCES

MAT01 – EQUATIONS (3) – Equations is a game of creative mathematics involving various operations ranging from simple addition to exponentiation. In this seminar, students will meet weekly to practice basic computational and algebraic skills and receive instruction on exponentiation, roots and radicals as they learn and play the Equations game. *Highest scoring students may have the opportunity to attend the competition sponsored by the Eastern Suburbs Special Program Association.*

MAT02 - CALCUSOLVE (1) - This is a mathematical competition involving problem-solving varying in content and difficulty. During the competition, ten individual and one group problem are presented to students. Extra problems are available in case of a team tie. Each problem includes clues. Initially, five minutes are allotted to solve a problem. A correct answer at this stage earns 5 points. If a clue is needed, students will have an additional 3 minutes. A correct answer at this stage earns 3 points. If the student has not turned in the answer, he will be given an additional clue plus one minute to solve the problem. A correct answer earns 1 point. Students are permitted to use calculators. *Highest scoring students in MAC02 may attend the competition.*

MAT03 - A-MAZING AND PUZZLING COMPETITION (1) - This event is one in which students are presented with a variety of number, word, language, spatial puzzles and mazes. Weather permitting; students are challenged with a full sized outdoor maze constructed by students. The event involves both team and individual events. *Because the event is normally held in September, there will be no class associated with it but students must be signed up for Logic and Problem Solving in order to participate.*

SCT01 - SCIENCE FAIR PREPARATION (PJAS and PRSEF) (4) – Students interested in signing up for this event must be prepared to do a lot of independent work. They should also consider signing up for SCW01 – SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS. Following ISEF guidelines, students will work to prepare a science project of their own selection in biology, chemistry, physics or another science or engineering oriented discipline. The project will include extensive background research and experimental work. Students will be required to write a scientific proposal, scientific paper, oral presentation and poster, detailing their project. Projects may be entered in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) competition during the month of February and/or the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (PRSEF) competition during the month of March. In order to participate in these exciting events, students MUST meet multiple deadlines.

For more details about the Science Fair, please see the PRSEF website at:

<http://www.scitechfestival.com/mainsf.asp>

For more details about PJAS:

<http://pjasregion7.com/>

SCT03 – SCIENCE BOWL (3) – This tournament will allow students to show their knowledge in the area of science. Depending on the number of students signed up, there will be a qualifying test to attending the tournament.

SCT04 – ECO CHALLENGE (2) – This event is sponsored by the AIU and will take place at Phipps Conservatory. The limit is two teams, so participants will be chosen based on a qualifying quiz.

SCE01 – RIVER QUEST (1) – Students will attend four workshops on topics such as macro-vertebrate, watersheds, plankton and water quality. Once completed, the students will apply their skills on the Voyager Training Vessel, which will sail the three rivers on a day-long trip in April/May. The class is limited to 30 students; students who have taken Water Quality Analysis in previous years will be considered first. This program will be offered in alternate years.

ACADEMIC SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS
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MAW01 - GEOMETRIC CONSTRUCTIONS I (2) – Students will be given an opportunity to appreciate geometry through creative constructions. They will discover a number of geometric relationships and create designs based on triangles, hexagons, and dodecagon. Geometric terms will be learned and applied.

MAW02 - GEOMETRIC CONSTRUCTIONS II (2) – A quick review of procedures learned in Geometric Construction 7 then we're off to creating designs based upon squares, octagons, decagons, and various other geometric shapes. This course is paper based and upon completing a project involving shapes, students will have the opportunity to begin working with line design.

MAW03 - FORMULAS! (2) – This workshop will present students with various mathematical and scientific formulas. They will learn to use these formulas to solve problems and answer a variety of questions.

MAW04 – LOGIC AND PROBLEM SOLVING (2) – Students will produce ideas, solutions, alternatives, etc. to a variety of situations and problems utilizing various types of logical thinking skills. Both visual and verbal problems will be presented.

LAW06 - S.A.T. PREP (2) - Teachers of both content areas will provide the student with a variety of testing tactics to use in making the S.A.T. as pleasant a challenge as possible. Students will practice strategies to increase their own SAT verbal and math scores. Individual weaknesses will be addressed as students are given specific drills and suggested strategies which they can continue independently. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a practice S.A.T. test and may be chosen as a participant in the CTY Talent Search sponsored by Johns Hopkins University.

SCW01 – SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS (2) – Students will be introduced to the scientific method through weekly experimentation. They will be given more responsibility as the course progresses cumulating in the expectation to be able to independently ask a scientific question, form a hypothesis, carryout an experiment, examine gathered data and draw conclusions from their work.

SCW03– INVASIVE SPEICES (2) –Some non-native species of plants, animals, insects and microbes can create a variety of problems in an ecosystem that may threaten biodiversity. This seminar will introduce students to some of these organisms and their impact in our world. Students will examine the good news and bad news of local invasive species and why we should care that they impact us. (8th Grade)

SCW04 – ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY (3) – Students will learn the basic principles of ecology and will have the opportunity to explore the schoolyard habitat. Students will participate in experiments and develop ideas to explore variables that may be impacting the environment. This course may involve a field trip to the Saint Vincent College Environmental Education Center.

SCW05 – CAPSELA (2) – A hands-on introductory approach to robotics and electronics in which students use transparent capsules containing motors, batteries, and gears. Students will be able to visualize energy changes in action as they create vehicles and models. Students can potentially create over 100 projects.

SCW06 – ELECTRONICS WORKSHOP (2) – Students will investigate common electrical devices such as transistors, capacitors and LED's. These will be combined to make electronic devices such as microphones, flashing trees and music makers. Technical electronic terms will be learned and applied.

SCW07 – SHARING SCIENCE (3) – In approximately fifteen sessions, students will create a science module suitable for a third grade science lesson. After creating the series of activities and practicing their implementation, students will travel to an elementary school and share the activities with the third grade students. Examples of the topics that maybe included would be the Heart, Atmospheric Pressure, Birds, Color and Light, etc. Students are encouraged to be creative in both their choices of materials used and their approach to conveying science to younger children (8th Grade Only).

SCW09 – BIOTECHNOLOGY (3) – In this workshop, students will learn some theories, techniques and uses of biotechnology. This course could include advanced science topics in the areas of “phagehunting,” genetics, DNA technology and tissue engineering. It will be open to both 7th and 8th grade students.

SCW10 – YOU! HEALTH AND BODY SYSTEMS I (2) – This course will introduce students to the organs and functions of the Digestive, Respiratory, Circulatory and Skeletal Systems. Students will participate in activities and discussion that will help them to learn about how the human body functions and how they can keep themselves healthy.

SCW11 – YOU! HEALTH AND BODY SYSTEMS II (2) – (8th Grade) This course will continue the exploration of the human body systems including the Muscular, Nervous, Lymphatic, Reproductive and Excretory Systems. *SCW10 You! Health and Body Systems I is a prerequisite.*

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND SCHEDULING

SHORT TERM ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

The following programs can be arranged through your gifted coordinator with the approval of the principal and counselor.

ISW01 - Independent Study - Students who show unusual aptitude in a specific required course area may, upon approval of instructor, gifted coordinator and principal, earn full credit for a course through independent study. Students will complete required readings and projects independently and meet once a week with both the instructor and gifted coordinator to evaluate progress.