

# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PREPARATION PACKET

*Center for Gifted Studies at Dunedin Highland Middle School*

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2020-2021 School Year



Team Field Trip to St. Petersburg International Folk Festival, 2019

**WELCOME MESSAGE**

We would like to officially welcome you to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Center for Gifted Studies team for the 2020-2021 school year. This packet will be helpful to you and your family as you prepare for your final year at Dunedin Highland Middle School. We are excited to get next year moving in the right direction. Inside this packet you will find tentative syllabi, links to communication and curriculum, supply lists, and much more. All syllabi and supply lists are subject to change.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The middle school Centers for Gifted Studies will provide a full-time gifted program experience for students. A challenging and rigorous, interdisciplinary curriculum will be delivered through instructional strategies that promote creative, critical, and complex thinking. Inquiry and investigation will be used as students address relevant, real-world problems. Personal strengths and interest will be developed through differentiated instruction, independent study, service learning, and extracurricular activities. The core subjects of math, science, social studies, and language arts will be taught through an interdisciplinary approach providing a rigorous and challenging learning environment.

**COMMUNICATION**

If you have questions or need assistance over the summer, please contact the teacher team during the summer break. We will also use REMIND to communicate team-wide information through text messages. If you would like to enroll for the 2020-2021 communication through REMIND texts, please text @cgs2021 to #81010. You can also sign up at [www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com).

Dr. Teresa Bergstrom  
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## **TEACHER TEAM RESUME**

### **EDUCATION**

4 Bachelor Degrees, 3 Master Degrees, 1 Doctoral Degree

### **INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE**

94 years overall

### **FLORIDA CERTIFICATION AND ENDORSEMENT**

- Language Arts 6-12
- Math 5-9
- Science 5-9
- Social Studies 6-12
- Middle Grades Integrated
- Gifted Endorsement
- Reading Endorsement
- ESOL Endorsement

### **AWARDS**

- Dunedin Highland Middle School Teacher of the Year 2007-2008, 2014, 2017, 2019
- Pinellas Council for the Social Studies MS Teacher of the Year 2013
- Verizon Thinkfinity Grant for Instructional Technology 2012
- Florida History Day Teacher of Merit Recipient 2012
- Pinellas History Day Teacher of the Year 2011

### **OTHER FUN FACTS**

#### **LANGUAGES**

English, Spanish, Dog

#### **COMMON POLICIES**

Respect, Positive Attitude, Timeliness, Professionalism  
(see team syllabus)

#### **PERSONAL HOBBIES**

Traveling, Reading, Gardening, Singing, Birding, Yoga,  
Home Improvement, Writing, Running, Cycling

#### **WORST JOBS**

Party store balloon artist, unofficial law enforcer,  
military police, glorified babysitter, clown costume sales

**SUPPLY LIST (pending physical attendance on campus)**

**GENERAL SUPPLIES FOR ALL CLASSES**

- 3” Binder (heavy duty highly recommended)
- Pencil pouch (kept inside binder)
- Set of 6 dividers with pockets
- College rule notebook paper
- Pencils
- Blue/Black pens
- Highlighters
- Colored pencils
- Paper hole reinforcer stickers
- Flash drive
- Access to Office365 at home

**ADVANCED ACADEMICS ELECTIVE**

- 3-prong plastic folder with pockets

**ALGEBRA/GEOMETRY I HONORS**

- 3+ Subject Spiral Notebook
- Scientific calculator
- Graph paper
- Dry-erase markers
- Ruler, compass, & protractor (Geometry only)

**ENGLISH I HONORS**

- 1 composition book

**PHYSICAL SCIENCE I HONORS**

- 2 x 80-page spiral notebooks (one for each semester)

**PRE-AP WORLD HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY**

- 2” Binder (clear cover insert preferred)
- 5 subject dividers for binder
- 36 plastic page protectors
- Package of post-its

## TEAM SYLLABUS

### TEAM CLASSROOM RULES

1. Actively participate in all classroom processes.
2. Learn all required curriculum as per FLDOE Curriculum Standards.
3. Arrive to classes prepared every day for class with required materials.
4. Treat you, others, and our school with respect.

### TEAM CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

1. Bathroom or water breaks will be available during convenient times during the class period per your teacher's discretion.
2. Complete all assignments within the given time restrictions. Turn in make-up work in a timely manner. Tests and quizzes should be made up before school. It is the student's responsibility to schedule based on teacher availability.
3. Sharpen pencils, turn in homework, and begin bellwork before the tardy bell.
4. The bell doesn't dismiss class; teachers will dismiss the class.
5. Listen during instruction. All academic questions will be answered after instructions are given.
6. Personal concerns/questions should be shared privately with your teachers during silent activities or between classes.
7. Politely ask permission to move or leave class during instruction. Movement around the classroom should be done quickly, quietly, and safely.
8. Just because a rule or procedure might not be included in this list, doesn't mean that it doesn't exist! Reference the Pinellas County Student Code of Conduct for more details.

### CONSEQUENCES (per teacher discretion/degree of infraction)

1. Warning
2. Time Out
3. Detention with Parent Contact
4. Detention with Parent Contact
5. Administrative Referral

### LATE WORK POLICY – SNAIL TICKETS

Late work will be accepted only with an attached Snail Ticket for the appropriate class and semester. Students will receive Snail Tickets from every 8th Grade Gifted Team teacher (color-coded) at the beginning of the school year. Each Snail Ticket sheet will include 6 tickets; 3 for each semester. Discounts include a "no penalty", 20% and 30% off. Once students use all their tickets, they will not be able to receive credit for any work turned in late per teacher discretion. Lost tickets will not be replaced. Students who keep all their tickets for the semester will receive an incentive. Teachers will accept assignments with snail tickets at their discretion.

### CGS TEAM BINDER

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade CGS team is implementing a CGS Team Binder that will be used by students in all their core CGS subject area classrooms. Students should bring their binder to their CGS classes every day. The binder should be equipped with all the tools and materials our students need throughout the school day (see general list of supplies). Students should take this binder home daily to complete any necessary assignments and keep track of their curricular responsibilities and supplies. Teachers will provide students with expectations for organization within the designated space for that subject area.

### USE OF PLANNERS

Classroom agendas will be present in the classroom for students to enter pertinent information in their planners to ensure that effective time management is practiced. It is the teacher's discretion to grade how students are utilizing this tool. Planners should be kept inside their CGS Team Binder.

### ASSIGNMENT HEADING

Head all notebook paper assignments with the following information: Full student name, teacher name, period, and date. All assignments without a proper heading could receive incomplete credit; resulting in a zero if the issue continues regularly.

### SCHOLARLY DISPOSITION

As Gifted Center students, professionalism is expected always while students are on campus or representing the Gifted Center off campus. Work should be neat, accurate, and thoughtful in effort and completion. Attempts at "extra credit" when offered is highly recommended; Extra Credit assignments count as bonus points added to your cumulative grade each marking period. Actively play the role of the exemplary DHMS Gifted Center student to ensure that the culture of our center maintains its stellar reputation for academic and behavioral excellence. Take the initiative to keep team classrooms clean and organized. You are the leading example for those who follow.

**ADVANCED ACADEMICS: INDEPENDENT STUDY ELECTIVE**

As a team, we will facilitate the 8th grade Advanced Academics CGS class elective for gifted students. With a unified vision, the team members will facilitate instruction that will support the needs of the whole gifted child. Many of our units will serve the social-emotional needs, as well as the academic needs of students with the goal of successfully preparing them for their transition to high school.

In the Advanced Academics class, students will complete units related to the following topics or concepts of study:

- Develop creative and critical thinking skills
- Brainstorm and solve teen-related issues and real-world issues
- Address relevant topics related to current events
- Discuss topics of social-emotional growth with gifted students
- Research High School programming and University/College interests
- Complete Finance Park and Career Planning unit with accompanying field trip to the Stavros Center
- Interdisciplinary study and student-interest projects
- Conceptual integration of "Perceptions" within AA curriculum and core subject-area interdisciplinary study.

Along with the AA curriculum, students will also have opportunities to nurture and sustain healthy habits for academic success through practices related to organization, time management, and support for healthy balances between academic and personal growth. It is imperative that students are willing to work for their highest academic potential, while discovering and determining the healthiest path toward their high school experience.

**ALGEBRA I HONORS -or- GEOMETRY I HONORS with Mr. Russell**

Welcome to the start of a new school year! This year, students will be studying Geometry and Algebra I from the Pearson envision Geometry and McGraw-Hill Algebra series. The curriculum is problem-centered which means that students will investigate mathematical ideas within the context of a realistic problem, as opposed to looking only at numbers. Some problems involve real-world applications or unusual situations, while others are purely mathematical. I am looking forward to a successful year for all of our students. Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions. My email address [russellju@pcsb.org](mailto:russellju@pcsb.org)

**REQUIRED BACKGROUND**

*To successfully complete this course, you must pass the Florida Department of Education End of Course Assessment and demonstrate an understanding of various algebraic and geometric concepts through tests, quizzes and homework throughout the 2020-2021 school years.*

**GENERAL RULES: Materials + Willingness to Learn =SUCCESS**

1. Students must come to class prepared which means to have all materials they will need to be successful along with a willingness to learn.
2. Be on time for class.
3. No talking when the teacher is talking.
4. Be respectful of those around you and their learning environment.

**GRADING POLICIES**

Homework will be given most days of the week and should be completed/submitted the next school day. Exceptions to this will be explained clearly. A score will be given on homework assignments based on completion and justification of answer.

Homework/classwork will count 30% of your grade, while quizzes/tests/projects will count for 70% of each report period (with some fluctuation). All make up tests will be given before school or during a free period. Late work is considered on a case-by-case basis.



## ENGLISH I HONORS with Mr. Milo

Dear Parents and Students --

Welcome to 8th grade Gifted Language Arts, aka “English 1 Honors.” This course counts as a year of high school English, but it also incorporates curriculum and material purchased through our Gifted Studies department. Therefore, we’ll use the newer Collections: 9 and the older, the Elements of Literature, 3rd Course with the PCSB 9th grade curriculum. Our curriculum is comprised of a variety of “genres” – poetry, epics, novels, short stories, and informational texts. Writing skills include organization/focus/purpose, evidence and elaboration, and attention to conventions (spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and sentence structure). Presentation skills to include power points, recitation, and debate.

- **Romeo and Juliet** + a sonnet project
- **The Odyssey** + a mythology project on a god, goddess, hero, or creature from world-wide mythologies
- A collection of **classic short stories featuring IRONY** (verbal, dramatic, situational)
- **To Kill a Mockingbird** + a “social justice” research unit on Tulsa Riots, Rosewood, Emmett Till, and the Scottsboro Boys
- **Of Mice and Men** + a brief survey of the Great Depression

In addition, we’ll also use the following material provided by the Center for Gifted Studies, College of William & Mary:

- **The Magic Lens** (grammar and composition)
- **Word Within the Word, Vol. 2** (Greek and Latin stems) Lessons 45-60
- **1940’s: A Decade of Change** + WW II study on Prelude to War, War in the Pacific, War in Europe, War on the Home Front, Propaganda Posters, and Aftermath
- **Novels:** Maus II and Hiroshima + Anne Frank and Member of the Wedding (extra credit)

Check my PORTAL grade book entries often; I’m in there daily! I often post future entries w/ points possible for your planning. I will also distribute weekly agenda handouts to include the following posts:

- Any highlights/major announcements for the week
- A daily agenda describing materials, pages, activities
- State standards applicable to the lesson design
- Daily journal topics for their composition books

### Ways of Work

- Bellwork: write a journal entry in your composition book each and every day (50+ words, date, title, paragraph, and word count); turn it in for credit at the end of each marking period
- English 1 Honors binder of class work: save all notes, handouts, practice papers, worksheets, graphic organizers in an organized binder; turn them in for credit at the end of each marking period.

**Extra Credit Summer Reading for English I Honors**

I'd recommend that students read DEATH BE NOT PROUD by John Gunther for "extra credit." It ties in nicely with the CHANGE organizer and is a true story from the era we study.

Death Be Not Proud is a 1949 memoir by American journalist John Gunther. The book describes the decline and death of Gunther's son, Johnny, due to a brain tumor. The title comes from Holy Sonnet X by John Donne, also known from its first line as the poem Death Be Not Proud.

**PHYSICAL SCIENCE HONORS with Ms. Emry****COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The Physical Science 1 Honors course is a high school level class that focuses on the physical sciences. This class counts as a high school science credit. This course will focus on the identified course benchmarks from the 9-12 Bodies of Knowledge with high levels of complexity. This course will support all science clusters in addition to the other grade levels focusing on Life, Physical and Earth Sciences for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science Standards Assessment.

**GRADING**

Interactive Notebook, Tests, Projects

**CURRICULUM**

Discovery online text available through CLEVER

## PRE-AP WORLD HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY with Dr. Bergstrom

### National History Day ([www.nhd.org](http://www.nhd.org))

Each school year, 8th grade CGS students are required to complete a National History Day (NHD) project in Dr. Bergstrom's class. With the 2021 annual theme of **"Communication in History: The Key to Understanding,"** we welcome a theme that is inclusively unique to multiple genres and time periods or history, whether it's regional, national, or international in scope. While more detailed information about the project will be delivered in the 8th Grade CGS Prep Packet, I ask students to begin the exciting opportunity to branch out and explore possible topics. Key criteria for strong NHD topics include strong multiple connections to the annual theme and expansive historical impact and significance to our world. We will discuss this in greater detail during the first week of the school year. Until then, use the resources in the National History Day website to better acquaint yourself with the theme and the amazing possibilities for topics!

### NHD 2021 Resources and Sample Topics Link-

<https://www.nhd.org/virtual2020students>

### 2021 NHD Themebook Link -

<https://www.nhd.org/sites/default/files/2021%20Theme%20Book%20-.pdf>

### 2021 NHD Example Topic Lists to Explore -

[https://education.mnhs.org/historyday/sites/default/files/Topic NoviceList 0.pdf](https://education.mnhs.org/historyday/sites/default/files/Topic%20NoviceList%200.pdf)

<https://education.mnhs.org/historyday/sites/default/files/TopicsMinnesota.pdf>

### Summer Reading

To prepare for your first Pre-Advanced Placement class in World History and Geography (Pre-AP WHG), it is imperative for students to begin exploring how it will feel to manage summer reading responsibilities that they will experience as they transition to different specialized programs in high school. Two books have been highly recommended by my colleagues who facilitate the Pre-AP WHG class. While these books are not mandatory, I will offer extra credit to students who complete one of the two books listed below. Along with the reading, students will need to complete Cornell Notes for the book that focus on the major concepts and patterns that students identify while they read their selection.

- Standage, Tom. (2005). A History of the World in 6 Glasses. Bloomsbury Press. New York, NY. (Amazon Link: <https://www.amazon.com/History-World-6-Glasses/dp/0802715524>)
- Standage, Tom. (2009). An Edible History of Humanity. Bloomsbury Press. New York, NY. (Amazon Link: <https://www.amazon.com/Edible-History-Humanity-Tom-Standage/dp/0802719910>)

Both books are wonderful introductions to our study of the Ancient World, focusing on the first of many characteristics of a civilization that will be a constant thematic connections in the curriculum for the Pre-AP WHG curriculum: ***stable food supply***. While a stable food supply is in large part the essence of this literature, students will also explore connections with the other characteristics of a civilization: written language, technology, government, religion, the arts, and social structures.

**Assignment Expectations:**

1. Select and completely read one of the two books assigned by Dr. Bergstrom.
2. As the student reads the book, they should complete Cornell Notes that focus on the main concepts and connections/patterns presented in the material. The Cornell Notes will be submitted for extra credit at the beginning of the school year. (see link below to sample template)

***Disclaimer:** A History of the World in 6 Glasses does refer to adult beverages, as it was far healthier to consume alcoholic drinks than unfiltered water in the ancient world. While both books are equal in historical quality and connection to our curriculum, students and their parents should decide which book would be best to read based on their preferences.*

**World Geography**

The first unit of study in the Pre-AP WHG curriculum will be a survey of world geography. Students can begin to explore and familiarize themselves with the natural/physical and political geography of the following regions of the world: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Kush, Israel and the Middle East, India, China, Meso and South America, Greece, Rome, and Europe. Additional resources will be available as we get closer to the beginning of the school year.