

# Pathways to Excellence

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Grades 3-5 Orange Avenue School  
Grade 6 Math Enrichment, Orange Avenue School

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Grades 3-5 Hillside Avenue School  
Grade 6 Math Enrichment, Hillside Avenue School

## 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, problem-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 collaborate with classroom teachers to present math enrichment lessons each week following the math compacting model. Services are provided for those classes that have identified Pathways Plus students. However, all trained teachers are encouraged to use the math compacting model as a means of differentiation for students. The Pathways staff is responsible for the training of the teachers and supporting their efforts by co-planning, providing resources and/or teaching model lessons. During the 2011-2012 school year, all teachers of grades 3-5 students will be trained and the Pathways staff will assist in implementing the model into the classrooms.

### **Grades 3-8 ENRICHMENT**

The identified Pathways Plus students that demonstrate exceptional ability in a particular subject area are given an individual enrichment session each week. In some cases, students are matched with mentors, follow individualized programs, advance to the next grade level in a subject, or participate in workshops at Cranford High School.

### **Grade 6 MATH**

Identified students at both middle schools meet with an enrichment specialist for one period per week. All 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 LANGUAGE ARTS**

Identified students at both middle schools 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 7-8 EXPLORATION AND INVESTIGATION**

This year, identified Pathways students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade have been scheduled into a cycle class. These courses will be comprised of two components. Students will become real-world investigators and problem-solvers as they are provided with opportunities in which they apply their interests, knowledge, creative ideas, and task commitment to a self-selected area of study. In addition, the students will explore higher level reading and participate in various writing projects.

### **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 field experiences 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 on problem-solving tasks, critical/creative thinking activities and team- building.

### **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 3-8 BROWN BAG LUNCH SEMINARS**

The enrichment team is responsible for planning and organizing lunch-time sessions throughout the year. In most cases, guest speakers are invited to share their expertise and knowledge. The topics are announced prior to the session 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 learn more about an area of interest.

### **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.