

Charging A-head!

Volume 2, Issue 1

November, 2008

Mark Your Calendar!

Mrs. Stamm is responsible for promoting and collecting information for many special programs supported by the department of Gifted Education and Academy Schools in Virginia Beach. The Old Donation Center Programs for Visual Arts and Dance are open to present sixth and seventh grade students for the 2009 school year. The applications for Kemps Landing Magnet School and for the Plaza Middle Years Program are available to present sixth and seventh grade students from Mrs. Stamm. Applications for the **high school Academy and Advanced Academic programs** are available from the guidance office and can also be found online. **Monday, February 2, 2009, is the deadline** for all of the programs listed above.

Here are some other dates to put on your calendar:

Thursday, November 13 Office of Gifted Education Achievement Orientation series begins at Kemps Landing at 6:30

Thursday, December 11 Old Donation Center Visual Arts and Dance Education Programs Information Night – at ODC 6:30 P.M. for students interested in applying for the ODC art or dance program.

WEBSITES:

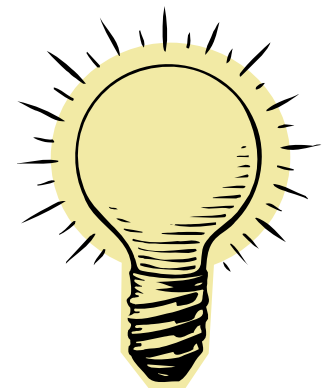
www.brandonms.vbschools.com/gifted.htm (Brandon)

<http://www.vbschools.com/curriculum/gifted/midgift.asp> (VB Schools)

www.nagc.org (Ntl. Assn. for Gifted Children—great for advocacy information)

<http://www.vagifted.org/> (Va Assn. for the Gifted)

<http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/> (great resources)



<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/> (UVa Saturday and Summer Enrichment classes information)

How to Balance Attending ODC Art and Dance Program with Core Classes—

Advice from Zoe:

"Right when I get back from ODC, I get my binder and homework and then find my teachers. Sometimes I ask the teachers if I can come in early on Friday morning before school to work on my makeup work. I use a homework folder and put all my homework that needs to be done in the folder. I also use my planner all the time, and when I'm finished with an assignment, I highlight it in my planner so I know it's done."



Mission Statement

The mission of the VBCPS Gifted Program is to:

- Challenge students with differentiated, interdisciplinary opportunities
- Provide a flexible, innovative curriculum that promotes self-esteem, productivity, creativity, and leadership
- Develop individual talents and special abilities
- Facilitate a commitment to excellence

Thank you!

- to the parents who attended the parent conference in August with Sylvia Rimm: *Unlocking the Potential of Gifted Students!*
- Brandon's terrific gifted cluster teachers for attending training sessions on rubrics, performance tasks, and Habits of Mind!

VBCPS has a new mandate that all students should be: academically proficient; effective communicators and collaborators; globally aware, independent, and responsible learners and citizens; critical and creative thinkers, innovators, and problem solvers.

Being a Successful Student

There is no greater feeling than the pride of accomplishing work that reflects your tremendous ability!

Here are some hints to being a successful student:

- Complete homework (home learning) on the day it is assigned—A day homework on A days.
- Purchase a folder to place in the front of each binder and label it "Homework Only." Home learning to be completed should be placed into the folder when at school, and completed homework to be handed in should be placed in the folder at home.
- Record homework and project assignments in your planner every day and place a check mark next to the items once they are completed and placed in the homework folder at home.
- Use a monthly calendar to record long term projects and assignments in order manage time efficiently.
- **Study and review** nightly what was covered in class each day.
- Use class time wisely!
- Set aside time once a week to clean out binders, backpack, and locker.
- Have a consistent, organized place to do homework and follow a consistent study schedule.
- **STUDY BUDDY!** Find a responsible classmate who will collect missing work, take notes, and keep you informed of what was taught in class if you are absent

or have any questions. Find someone you feel comfortable calling when you have questions about homework or assignments.

For students attending ODC:

Don't wait for the teacher to come to you—go to the teacher first. Ask for help when you need it. Stay organized and turn work in on time. Don't use ODC as an excuse.



Miners, Ranchers, and Cowhands! Oh my!

Here are some original Bloom's Taxonomy high level questions developed by Mrs. Pettaway's 7th grade Transformers:

Why were Boomtowns important to the nearby states?

Predict what would have happened if cattle ranchers were still working after the winter of 1887?

Imagine that you were a cowhand - what would your life be like?

What might have happened if the gold

that the miners discovered was stolen?

Compare and contrast Boomtowns and ghost towns.

Do you think that the Westward movement was a good or bad thing? Why?

Could you design another way to move west to help the settlers survive the journey?

How would the Wild West be different without vigilantes?

If you lived in the 1870's, would you prefer

staying where you were or moving to a Boomtown? Why?

Could you have regulated a better legal system to detain prisoners and vigilantes until their trial was held?

Predict what might have happened if miners in the United States did not find gold in Pikes Peak?

What might have happened if the North didn't win the war to end slavery? Would slavery still be here to this day?

How might the need to be a viable candidate affect the leadership qualities of the people elected President?

"The people elected will step up and take charge. Sometimes people have to compromise their beliefs to be viable." - Miranda

"They would have to change themselves to meet the political party's wants and needs. It might make them try to be something they are not. It might also show people how flexible they can be. It could make them work harder and persevere. Plus, it

makes them more creative and makes them think of ways to grab people's attention." - Jessica

"A person has to promote themselves to people in a way that makes the voters feel there will be a great change if you decide to elect them. They must be dedicated and persistent to accepting the challenges they will go through to encourage people's votes." - Cierra

honesty and respect for the people to be governed, show respect for the law, and show knowledge in their decisions." - Maggie

"A candidate might want to be informed and flexible when it comes to other ideas. They need to be very flexible so they can get out of a difficult situation. They should be someone who can easily say their own ideas and have people listen to them." - Lisa

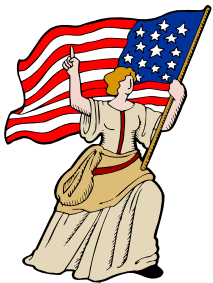
INSIGHTS from 8th grade Civics students!



Socratic Seminars everywhere at Brandon!

When Mr. Nelson asked his 7th grade English students on an exit ticket what they liked about their culminating Socratic seminar on the Mythology unit, they responded:

The fact that people could say what they felt without being laughed at heightened the level of responses - Reyna I liked the way we turned answers into conversations - Kiana Learning from each other was a great experience - Omar A lot of people have a lot of great ideas - Shaquindra I got to sit and think deeply - Dakota It was fun to interact and listen to everyone's opinions - Melanie I heard different points of view I might never have looked at - Matthew We got to share freely and openly - Arthur It proved everyone's knowledge of mythology - Jeff I learned to laugh with people, not at people - Gary We got good ideas for our original myths - Aaron We got to disagree and discuss the questions - the circle made it easier to see and hear who is speaking - David



Paul's Reasoning Model in Action!

These Generalizations were created after completing Paul's Reasoning model on what people thought when the U.S. was forming a new government in Mrs. McCracken's Tradewinds Civics class:

"It appears that forming a new government is more complicated than the colonists expected. Different stakeholders had different opinions which may have caused arguments. When disagreements happen, then compromise and a better understanding of a person's different opinion may result. If democracy continues to spread to other countries, then, in the future, world peace may occur." -Miranda

"It appears that forming a new government causes conflict when everyone has a different idea of what it should be. There were Federalists, Anti-Federalists, Loyalists, and Patriots, and they all had different opinions about the government we should have. Conflict may cause problems, but when we all put in everyone's ideas, then compromise may be the result.

If compromise continues in the future, our country will have a better government." - Taylor

"It appears that forming a new government can lead people to really fight for what they believe in. Even though there were different thoughts about what would happen, everyone was fighting for what they believed in. Some wanted freedom and running their own government. Others wanted to stay with the British way of government. Through all of these differences, every person had one thing in common: determination!" -Kylie

"It appears that making a new perfect government was harder than it seems. Even now, no one has a perfect government. It was even harder before, during, and after the Revolutionary War. This was because so many people wanted to stay with Great Britain and so many wanted to break away. Some didn't even care! Even though we had all those problems, we eventually figured it out. Now we don't have a perfect government, but we have a pretty good one!" - Tim

Mrs. Pettaway's 7th grade social studies class on using Paul's Reasoning Model to analyze whether or not Red Cloud should sign The Treaty of Fort Laramie:

"I learned that using a graphic organizer is easier to look at. The Paul's Reasoning Model helped me organize my thoughts." -Patrick
 "When I learned how to use Paul's Reasoning Model, I learned to organize information in a short amount of time. I learned that organizing information helps you understand more." -Jeff

"Paul's Reasoning Model taught me how to format my information. It taught me more about problems between the Native Americans and our government." -Darryl

"Paul's Reasoning Model helped me better understand point of view, told me what assumptions were, and helped me figure out the cause." -Bianca

"I found out new ways to brainstorm and create ideas and I learned to put inferences to good use." -Arthur

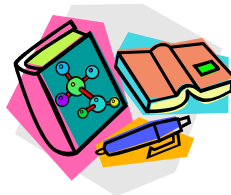
"I thought about different people's point of view and their assumptions." -Samantha



The Real Deal at BMS:

**Benefits of clustering
Brandon's gifted students**

- Time with intellectual peers
- Full-time program for gifted
- 1-2 cluster core teams per grade level
- Pull-in vs. pull-out
- Regular training with the GRT
- Planning and implementation of lessons with the GRT



Governor's School for the Arts

8th graders interested in applying for the Governor's School for the Arts should see Mrs. Stamm for an application—Auditions will be held in January and auditions are guaranteed if your application is in by:

Dec. 19 www.gsarts.net

**BRANDON MIDDLE SCHOOL'S
GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM
MRS. CAROLYN STAMM, GRT
BRANDON'S "THINKING COACH"**

Brandon Middle School
1700 Pope St.
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
648-4450 ext. 61242
fax 366-4550
e-mail ccstamm@vbschools.com

STUDY!

You won't be rewarded for having brains, but for using them!

Using Literature Circle Roles in Earth Science!

These were written as part of the Literature circle roles in Ms. Roesch's Tradewinds Earth Science class regarding an article about Moon Tides:

Discussion Director:

"What would happen to the tides if there was no moon?" -Nicholas

"If the moon suddenly stopped revolving around the Earth during a proxigeon spring tide, what might happen?" -Uriel

"What affects tides more - the moon or sun? Why? What do you think would happen to our tides if the moon had a longer orbit around the Earth?" -Robbie

Connector:

"Tides are created by the gravitational pull of the sun and moon. Magnets create magnetic gravitational pull from the positive and negative energy." -Elizabeth

"The phrase 'Don't judge a book by its cover' reminds me of this article about tides. The moon may be smaller than the sun, but it is the single most important factor for tides." -Emma

"Tides are like a person's bank account. You deposit and withdraw money like the tides go up and down." -Jamari



8th grade Tradewinds create Generalizations about THINKING LIKE A SCHOLAR to begin the school year:

"A scholar is one who excels at learning. A scholar uses most of their mental capacities to solve problems. Scholars have an exceptional vocabulary and can use that skill as an advantage when writing and speaking. Scholars question many things and are ready to solve many problems." - Megan, Sam, Kalif

"It's important because you can succeed in life when you think like a scholar. It can also be good to think like a scholar because it can open doors to new opportunities and great experiences." - Cierra

"Thinking like a scholar means to appreciate your skills and work to the best of your ability. A scholar is determined and organized and uses their knowledge to benefit others." - Kurt, Taylor, Briana



ATTENTION PARENTS OF GIFTED LEARNERS

Parents interested in serving on the Gifted Education Community Advisory Committee should call the Office of Gifted Education at 263-1405. **They're looking for representatives from our area!**

Gifted Program Testing Information

If you are interested in having a student tested for eligibility for the gifted program, there are two more test sessions for identification held at BMS this school year. The date for the next testing session is December 12. If you would like to have a student tested for the gifted program, please contact Mrs. Stamm. Anyone may refer a student, including the student him/herself.

According to Harvard's Tony Wagner, today's students need to master seven survival skills in the new world of work:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Collaboration and leadership
- Agility and adaptability
- Initiative and Entrepreneurialism
- Effective Oral and Written Communication
- Accessing and Analyzing Information
- Curiosity and Imagination

"To think like a scholar, you must have an open mind. Scholars are well educated and they work diligently. Scholars are honest and they respect their responsibility to voice their own opinion." - Alexa, Chris, Marian, Sean

"A scholar is an intelligent and hard working person. A scholar strives to be engaged in their studies. Scholars work at problems using their skills and knowledge. Scholars could even work to create vaccines to cure cancer and other diseases." - Tim, David, Allen

"A scholar is determined to pursue their goals. They encourage and motivate themselves to do better and take new risks. They like to spread their knowledge to others. They are open minded and work to further their studies." - Tionna, Miranda, Aleesa,

"A scholar is someone who mostly pursues a great education and who has a want and desire to learn and grow. Scholars want to share and further what they learn." - Henry, Cierra, Kylie, Spencer

