Middle School Specialty Programs

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student:

Please consider applying to Young Scholars for Gifted Learners and/or The Academy of International Studies at Rosemont. The Young Scholars Program is housed at Norview Middle School or Ruffner Academy. Students in the Young Scholars program develop their academic skills and interests using the Autonomous Learner Model (ALM), which fosters independence in meeting the unique needs of the gifted learner. Young Scholars must be highly motivated, academically orientated, and identified as gifted. A review committee will evaluate all applications and select a group of finalists to continue the selection process with an interview. The Academy of International Studies at Rosemont is based on a thematic approach with a focus on world languages, world cultures, and military science (Navy League Cadets Program). Students can choose one of the following program options as a focus area: World Languages, Military Science, or World Languages and Military Science. The school is designed to meet the academic challenges of a rigorous course of study.

To be eligible for these programs, your child must meet the following criteria:

**Criterion 1**
- Pass ALL fifth grade SOL tests
- Successfully complete all elementary school subjects with an average of 2.7 or better in core subjects
- Upon acceptance, maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA at the end of each semester and pass all SOL tests
- Maintain an unblemished discipline record (No behavior infractions)
- Maintain 95% attendance and punctuality rates

**Criterion 2**
- Submit two teacher recommendations from **two different** teachers. **One of the recommendations must be from the Mathematics teacher.** If the student has the same teacher for Mathematics and Science, the second recommendation must come from one of the following teachers: Art, Music, or Physical Education. **If the student has two different teachers for Mathematics and Science, the recommendations must come from the Mathematics and Science teachers.**
- Submit one recommendation from a community representative. The guidance counselor cannot complete this recommendation. A community representative is defined as someone, not employed by Norfolk Public Schools or related to the student, who has worked with the student in a supervisory capacity.
- Submit a copy of most recent report card.
- Submit a signed and dated student and parent/guardian **Admissions Agreement Contract.**
- Submit an essay in the student’s own handwriting (may be printed or in cursive). The essay should be student’s own work.

Please consider each of these challenging and exciting programs for your child. Beginning December 10, 2015, applications will be available to all interested fifth grade students or middle school students. You may pick up applications from any NPS elementary or middle school, or you may access the application from our district’s website at http://www.nps.k12.va.us.

Mr. Walter Brower – Principal, Norview Middle School  
Ms. Sallie Cooke – Principal, Ruffner Academy  
Dr. Lynnell Gibson –Principal, Academy of International Studies  
Mrs. Valerie Tuck – Senior Coordinator of the Office of Academic Rigor
Middle School Specialty Programs
APPLICATION PACKET and CHECKLIST
Application Checklist for Parents

The student has applied for: (Check one or all)
☐ Academy of International Studies at Rosemont
☐ Pre-Medical, Health and Engineering Specialty (PMHE) Program at Blair
☐ Young Scholars: NPS Program for Gifted Learners at Ruffner Academy and Norview Middle School

SCHOOL: __________________________
STUDENT NAME: ____________________ Student I.D.#

☐ Application Form (attached)
☐ Recommendation Form - Math Teacher (attached)
☐ Recommendation Form – Science Teacher (attached)
☐ Recommendation Form - Community Representative (attached)
☐ Essay and Checklist (attached)
☐ Copy of most recent report card (attached)
☐ Admissions Agreement Contract (attached)

Completed application packages are due to your middle or elementary school counselor on or before February 3, 2016. Late or incomplete applications will not be eligible for consideration.

FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY
Application Checklist for Counselors

DATE (submitted to counselor): __________  TIME (submitted to counselor): __________

☐ Application Form (completed and attached)
☐ Recommendation Form – Science Teacher (will be submitted by person completing form)
☐ Recommendation Form - Math Teacher (will be submitted by person completing form)
☐ Recommendation Form - Community Representative (will be submitted by person completing form in a sealed envelope)
☐ Essay and Checklist (attached)
☐ Copy of most recent report card (attached)
☐ Admissions Agreement Contract (signed, dated and attached)
☐ Copy of Discipline report/History from Ultimate Data

Completed hard copy of the application packet is due to Special Program Campus on or before February 26, 2016.

Counselor __________________________
   (signature)  (date)

Principal __________________________
   (signature)  (date)
Enrollment Agreement

Norfolk Public Schools Specialty Programs are rigorous, comprehensive and challenging programs designed for highly motivated middle school students. For a student to be successful in these programs, that student must be committed to doing his/her part to ensure a high quality education. Therefore, it is required that the student and family agree to make the following commitments:

I agree to the following terms and conditions for participation:

1. Follow the rules of Norfolk Public Schools as stated in the NPS Rules and Regulations pamphlet and any applicable school rules (i.e. uniform policy).
2. Maintain 95% or better attendance and punctuality rates.
3. Consistently complete all assignments including homework, projects, and class/community service activities.
4. Actively engage in the learning process, and submit high quality work at deadlines.
5. Pass all SOL tests and be ready to begin Algebra I in seventh grade and Geometry in eighth grade.
7. Exemplify the highest degree of academic and personal integrity. Cheating, repeated class disruptions, and/or consistent discipline/behavior problems are grounds for immediate dismissal from the program.
8. Exert concerted effort to schedule recreation, medical, and other appointments outside of the school day.
9. Remain in the program unless released by the recommendation of the Academic Review Panel.
10. Attend student orientation session(s) during the month of August.

I realize I must meet the standards of the program and abide by my signed commitment. If the quality of my work and/or level of my commitment to my education do not conform to these standards, I may be asked to withdraw from the program and be reassigned to my zoned school.

______________________________    _______________
Student’s Signature            Date

If accepted, I grant permission for my son/daughter to be enrolled in a specialty program. In consideration of the acceptance of my child to the program, I agree that:

➢ My child and I will adhere to the terms of this contract in order to remain enrolled.
➢ I will attend the parent/guardian enrollment session in July. In addition, I will attend orientation session(s) during the month of August and actively participate in the PTA, parent workshops, and parent-teacher conferences during the school year.
➢ I will perform at least one volunteer activity per year.
➢ I will ensure that my child fully complies with the uniform policy on a daily basis.

______________________________    _______________
Signature of Parent/Guardian    Date
## Application Form

(Please print clearly)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student’s Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Middle Name</th>
<th>Current Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student’s Street Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Zip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Transportation Required  Yes ☐  No ☐ (If Yes, please complete box below)

Transportation Address  City | State | Zip |

Current School  Current Counselor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Number</th>
<th>Birth date</th>
<th>M or F</th>
<th>Home Phone #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Mother’s/Guardian’s Name  Work Phone #

Father’s/Guardian’s Name  Work Phone #

Student’s Zoned Middle School

### International Studies Program Options

The Academy of International Studies at Rosemont is based on a thematic approach with a focus on world languages, world cultures, and military science. **Students must choose one of the program options listed below as a focus area.**

Note: If an option is not clearly marked on the application, the student’s application will be automatically designated for Option 3 (World Languages and Military Science).

Please select your program option choice and check the appropriate box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>☐ OPTION 1  (World Languages)  Select One:</th>
<th>☐ OPTION 2  (Military Science – Navy League Cadets)</th>
<th>☐ OPTION 3  (World Languages and Military Science - Navy League Cadets)  Select One:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>____ German</td>
<td>____ Latin</td>
<td>____ Chinese</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spanish is offered in seventh and eighth grades for high school credit. Spanish is not offered to sixth graders. Other languages are semester exploratory noncredit electives in sixth grade.

Submit Completed Application Packet

On or before February 3, 2016
Middle School Specialty Program
Recommendation Form for Science Teacher
Confidential

Student __________________________ School __________________________

Teacher __________________________ Subject Science __________________________

Directions to Student/Parent/Guardian: On the lines above, print or type your name and the name of the person who will recommend you for The Academy of International Studies at Rosemont. This recommendation form MUST be given to your current Science teacher. Please know that the recommendations are confidential, and the contents will not be revealed to you or your child.

Directions to teacher: The student whose name appears above is applying for admission to The Academy of International Studies at Rosemont. Please use the following rating scale and rate the student according to the student’s typical degree of behavior and attitude. This student exhibits this trait:

4 = consistently  3 = often  2 = occasionally  1 = rarely

1. Demonstrates higher order thinking skills
2. Demonstrates initiative and intellectual curiosity
3. Demonstrates strong skills in my subject
4. Is punctual and consistent in fulfilling obligations (homework, class work, projects)
5. Follows directions
6. Works well as a member of a team
7. Applies problem-solving skills effectively to new situations
8. Demonstrates in-depth understanding of concepts
9. Demonstrates leadership skills
10. Demonstrates the ability to succeed in a rigorous academic program
11. Maintains 95% or better attendance and punctuality rates
12. Submits high quality work at deadlines
13. Works well independently without constant supervision and prompting
14. Exemplifies a high degree of academic and personal integrity (no disruptive or discipline/behavior problems)

Total ___________

__________________________  __________________________
Signature of Teacher Date

Please Note: The person completing this form must return completed recommendation form in a sealed envelope with name of student and school on the front of the envelope to the child’s middle school or elementary school guidance office on or before February 3, 2016.
Middle School Specialty Program
Recommendation Form for Community Representative
Confidential

Student ___________________________ School ___________________________

Name of Community Representative __________________________

In what capacity have you worked with this student: __________________________

How long have you known the student? __________________________

Directions to Student/Parent/Guardian: On the lines above, print or type your name and the name of the person who will recommend you. This recommendation form MUST be given to a community representative who is not related to you. Your guidance counselor may NOT complete this form. Please know that the recommendations are confidential, and the contents will not be revealed to you or your child.

Directions to Representative: The student whose name appears above is applying for admission to one of the Specialty Middle School Programs of Norfolk Public Schools. Please use the following rating scale and rate the student according to the student’s typical degree of behavior and attitude. This student exhibits this trait:

4 = consistently 3 = often 2 = occasionally 1 = rarely

1. Demonstrates curiosity in a variety of activities
2. Demonstrates initiative
3. Gets along well with others
4. Demonstrates strong skills in solving problems
5. Is punctual and consistent in fulfilling obligations (projects, role on teams, promises)
6. Is well organized
7. Applies problem-solving skills effectively to new situations
8. Perseveres even when faced with difficulties
9. Demonstrates in-depth understanding of concepts
10. Treats others with respect
11. Completes assignments independently
12. Maintains 95% or better participation in your dealings with him/her
13. Produces high quality effort
14. Exemplifies a high degree of character and personal integrity (no cheating or disruptive or consistent discipline/behavior problems)

I CERTIFY THAT I AM NOT RELATED TO THIS STUDENT.

Total ________

Signature of Representative ___________________________ Date ____________

Please Note: The person completing this form must return completed recommendation form in a sealed envelope with name of student and school on the front of the envelope to the child’s middle school or elementary school guidance office on or February 3, 2016.
Middle School Specialty Program
Recommendation Form for Mathematics Teacher
Confidential

Student ___________________________ School ________________________________
Teacher ___________________________ Subject Mathematics____________________

Directions to Student/Parent/Guardian: On the lines above, print or type your name and the name of the person who will recommend you one of the Specialty Middle School Programs. This recommendation form MUST be given to your current Mathematics teacher. Please know that the recommendations are confidential, and the contents will not be revealed to you or your child.

Directions to teacher: The student whose name appears above is applying for admission to one of the Specialty Middle School Programs. Please use the following rating scale and rate the student according to the student’s typical degree of behavior and attitude. This student exhibits this trait:

4 = consistently  3 = often       2 = occasionally     1 = rarely

1. Demonstrates higher order thinking skills
2. Demonstrates initiative and intellectual curiosity
3. Demonstrates strong skills in my subject
4. Is punctual and consistent in fulfilling obligations (homework, class work, projects)
5. Justifies solutions with words, pictures, numbers, and graphs
6. Works well as a member of a team
7. Applies problem-solving skills effectively to new situations
8. Demonstrates in-depth understanding of concepts
9. Demonstrates leadership skills
10. Demonstrates the ability to succeed in a rigorous academic program
11. Maintains 95% or better attendance and punctuality rates
12. Submits high quality work at deadlines
13. Works well independently without constant supervision and prompting
14. Exemplifies a high degree of academic and personal integrity (no cheating, disruptive or discipline/behavior problems)

Total ____________________________

Signature of Teacher ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Please Note: The person completing this form must return the completed recommendation form in a sealed envelope with the name of student and school on the front of the envelope to the child’s middle school or elementary school guidance office on or February 3, 2016.
Dear Student:

The program for which you are applying is very challenging and requires hard work. Describe your academic commitment and personal discipline, and how you think they will help you succeed in either of these challenging programs.

Guidelines for writing: Your essay should be 3 well developed paragraphs (introduction, body and conclusion).

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
# Personal Student Essay Checklist

**Rating Scale (Circle the number you think describes your work.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Very Strong</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Weak</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## The Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does what I wanted it to do</td>
<td>4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has enough ideas and has good ideas</td>
<td>4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gives supporting details (examples, evidence, description)</td>
<td>4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## The Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is organized</td>
<td>4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holds together as a whole</td>
<td>4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has an appropriate and correct format (letter, poem, essay, etc.)</td>
<td>4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## I have used correct

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation</td>
<td>4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitalization</td>
<td>4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar</td>
<td>4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## My work has

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A neat appearance</td>
<td>4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Been clearly presented in a sophisticated and organized manner</td>
<td>4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Total (out of 48)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What I like best about this essay:

Student Signature:

Parent Signature:
Analytic Rubric

Your essay will be scored based on the rubric below. Please hand-write the essay neatly and in the space provided. Print or write in cursive. Use the checklist as a guide. Be sure that you have completed this writing assignment without assistance from anyone else.

RETURN THE RUBRIC WITH YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKET.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>COMMENTS/SCORES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus/Organization</td>
<td>Comments:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearly states a main idea and shows clarity in writing.</td>
<td>Score _____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaborates with details, examples, descriptions, etc.</td>
<td>4 = Very Strong 3 = Strong 2 = Average 1 = Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideas, events, and/or details are effectively ordered.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is unified structure that includes a title, an introductory paragraph, three body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaboration/Support</td>
<td>Comments:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All details are clearly related to the topic.</td>
<td>Score _____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details are appropriate and sufficient.</td>
<td>4 = Very Strong 3 = Strong 2 = Average 1 = Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word choice enhances the writing and presents the voice of a rising sixth grader.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivid vocabulary and sentence variety give the essay a flow that avoids boredom.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanics/Usage</td>
<td>Comments:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard English usage is employed.</td>
<td>Score _____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules for capitalization, punctuation, and grammar are applied.</td>
<td>4 = Very Strong 3 = Strong 2 = Average 1 = Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The paper is neat, legible, and presented in an appropriate format.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sum of the three categories equals the overall score.

12 - 10 Very Strong  9 - 8 Strong  6 - 7 Average  5 - 0 Weak

Overall Score _________