

## Is the Young Scholars Program right for you?

- \_\_\_ I am curious about many things and love to learn.
- \_\_\_ I prefer learning at my own pace, in my own way.
- \_\_\_ I set goals, monitor my progress and revise when necessary.
- \_\_\_ I willingly accept leadership roles and collaborate well with others.
- \_\_\_ I enjoy researching ideas using a variety of advanced materials and resources.
- \_\_\_ I am open minded to alternative ideas for solutions.
- \_\_\_ I have many outside-of-school interests.
- \_\_\_ I want to learn how to express my own ideas more effectively.
- \_\_\_ I want to become an independent, self-directed learner.
- \_\_\_ I want to develop self-confidence and a positive self-concept.
- \_\_\_ I am extremely motivated to achieve in life.

For information about this and other programs or services for gifted students, contact

### Gifted Education & Academic Rigor Services

Rosemont Center  
7000 West Tanners Creek Drive  
Norfolk, VA 23513  
757 852-4674, option 3

## Application Process

*All students identified as gifted (GIA or SAA in Math, English, or both) are eligible to apply.*

Young Scholars students are selected through a competitive application process that is 100% criteria based, and considers a variety of academic and attitudinal factors. Application and interview scores are combined and tabulated to determine the final selections.

### Step One:

Download a Middle School Specialty Program Application packet from the NPS website to complete, or ask your Gifted Resource Teacher for a hard copy of an application. Deliver the completed packet to the guidance counselor at your child's *current* elementary school by January 22, 2021.

### Step Two:

Applicants who show a high potential for success as Young Scholars are selected to move into the next phase of the application process, where they are expected to present a product and participate in an interview. *Not all applicants will be invited to interview.* The phase II applicants choose a product he/she created within the past year that demonstrates creativity, critical thinking and research skills.

### Step Three:

Selected Young Scholars candidates who move to phase II schedule an interview and present their product on a weekend in March. Interviews are conducted at the Academy of Rosemont Middle School and include an onsite written essay. Notification of final placement decisions are mailed to students in April 2021.



## School Board Members

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## NPS Administration

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*Executive Director, Secondary Schools and Programs*

Dr. Dorie Banks  
*Principal, Rosemont Academy Middle School*

Ms. Karla Stead  
*Sr. Coordinator; Gifted Education & Academic Rigor Services*

# Young Scholars Program

*Thinking to Learn  
Learning to Think Independently*

An Autonomous Learner Model School



## 2020-21 Information

## Program Design

Young Scholars is Norfolk Public Schools' middle years magnet program for highly motivated learners identified as gifted. This "school-within-a-school" is housed at Rosemont Middle School with specially trained faculty who provide researched-based instruction that is challenging and differentiated.

Young Scholars teachers are supportive to the development of critical thinking skills and positive Habits of Mind for all students.

The Young Scholars program affords learners an opportunity to develop cognitive, emotional, and social skills to sustain lifelong learning.

*The program's curriculum is built around established principles of gifted education:*

- Learning through thoughtful processing of content information
- Differentiated instruction focused on acceleration, depth, problem solving, and higher-order thinking
- Ongoing assessment using a wide range of evidence to inform instruction
- Enhanced and expanded content standards
- Development of independent, self-directed autonomous learners by fostering independence, choice, and instruction that meets the unique needs of gifted learners; the Autonomous Learner Model (ALM) is the foundation of the program
- Learning activities based on seven domains of scholarship that prepare students for the demands of high school and college
- Promotion of lifetime learning & respect for excellence

## Grade Level Disciplinary Structure

| Sixth Grade  |  |   |  |   |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Mathematics  | Science  | Social Studies  | English  | Enhanced Learning   |
| Introduction to Algebra  | Specialty Six Science (6, 7, 8 science content)                                      | U.S. History Survey   | Oral language, reading, writing as a process   | Autonomous Learning Module (ALM) elective course, ALM – infused curriculum, leadership seminars, exploratory classes; Fine arts |
| Emphasis on the development of patterns and number sense essential for higher math | Accelerated and compacted curriculum, preparation for honors and credit-bearing      | Independent courses emphasizing interdisciplinary links taught through guided instruction, Socratic dialogues, primary source research, art, philosophy, forensics, and rich literature; Junior Great Books, Level II |  |   |
| Seventh Grade  |  |   |  |   |
| Mathematics  | Science  | Social Studies  | English  | Enhanced Learning   |
| Algebra I (high school credit)   | Earth Science (high school credit)   | Civics and Economics  | Honors Communication Skills  | Foreign Language I, Autonomous learning-infused curriculum, leadership seminars and retreats, fine arts electives               |
| Overarching theme of patterns  | Focus on deep understanding of scientific processes using problem solving approaches | Focus on building solid foundation for high school honors and credit-bearing social studies courses   | Wide choice of rich literature; "community of writers" setting; authentic portfolios; Junior Great Books |   |
| Eighth Grade   |  |   |  |   |
| Mathematics  | Science  | Social Studies  | English  | Enhanced Learning   |
| Geometry (high school credit)  | Environmental Science (high school credit)   | World Geography (high school credit)  | Honors Communication Skills  | Foreign Language II, Autonomous learning-infused curriculum, leadership seminars and retreats; fine arts electives              |
| Constructivist approach to math  | Challenging Content using Gifted strategies  | Special emphasis on analysis of political, economic and cultural geography of world regions   | Heavy emphasis on persuasive writing; lessons keyed to critical thinking; Junior Great Books, Level III  |   |

*Other information about course offerings:*

- All instruction will advance from specified standards (Virginia SOL for minimal competencies and expanded national and gifted standards for rigorous scholarship).
- A variety of electives and credit bearing foreign language courses (year I and II) will be available for seventh and eighth grade Young Scholars.
- Blocks of time beyond core content areas will be devoted to special courses and programs specifically for Young Scholars.
- Advanced students are provided opportunities for independent study.
- Young Scholars are encouraged to take part in after-school programs such as Great Computer Challenge, Courtroom Law, Socrates Café, and Future Problem Solving

