

The NEW Paladin Gifted Program @ JMC Middle

PALADIN GIFTED PROGRAM

Jorge Mas Canosa Middle School

The Paladin Gifted Program provides an advanced, enriched and accelerated curriculum meeting the individual educational needs of gifted students through differentiated instruction in terms of pace, depth, complexity and challenge.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

1. Faculty – An experienced and endorsed team of gifted teachers trained in the following educational needs and characteristics of gifted learners:

- **Development & Characteristics**
- **Individual Learning Differences**
- **Instructional Strategies**
- **Learning Environment and Social Interactions**
- **Language**
- **Instructional Planning**
- **Assessment**
- **Professional and Ethical Practice**
- **Collaboration**

2. Self-Contained Gifted classes in all content areas with following process & product emphasis:

REASONING

Critical Creative & Divergent Thinking

Research Skills

Problem-solving skills

COGNITION

Develop metacognitive skills to build self-directed learning habits

Develop awareness and plan for future goals; academic and career

Develop maturity, responsibility, task commitment and self-understanding

Develop leadership, citizenship and teamwork skills

COMMUNICATION

Develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills

Writing logically and with clarity and style about important questions

Articulating persuasively, both on paper and in oral presentations, focused, sophisticated, and credible arguments

Engaging in critical reflection: journals, opinions, and reactions

SAMPLE STUDENT PRODUCTS:

Visual	Oral	Written
Chart, Table, Graph	Panel Discussion	Journal
Illustration, Diagram, Photo	Debate	Log
Multimedia	Speech	Letter
		Report

presentation	Interview	Editorial
Video	Performance	Magazine
Collage, Picture, Storybook	Role Play	Pamphlet
Map	Demo Lesson	
Timeline, Flowchart		

3. INDIVIDUALIZATION OF INSTRUCTION – tailored to student needs, interests and strengths through:

- **Pace-** Use of diagnostic pre-testing to determine individual strengths and weaknesses in academic content units.
- **Depth-** Learn to use the language of varied disciplines. Determine patterns in events, elements, and ideas, especially those that are repeated over time. Hypothesize, prove, and defend.
- **Complexity-** Investigate trends and look for connections outside the topic. Explore ethics by identifying and discussing dilemmas and controversies.
- **Challenge** – Provide opportunities for learners to investigate the political, ethical, or social effects of current and historical topics.

4. ACCESS TO RESOURCES BEYOND THE SCHOOL SETTING

We will expand our classrooms with field expeditions, competitions, speakers and technological communications.

Our expanded classrooms will include:

Competitions – INTEL, SECME, Odyssey of the Mind, Future City

Research-based academic field trips

International field trips to: Paris 2015 Italy 2016 England/Ireland 2017

Speakers and mentors

Community action projects

Viewing and participation in arts performances – Theater, Dance & Music

Using digital media to engage students in:

...collaborative, project-based learning, designed around real world contexts, connecting with other students around the world, on topics of study ...immersing students in a learning experience that allows them to grapple with a problem, gaining higher-order thinking skills from pursuing the solution.

5. PARENT INVOLVEMENT:

Parents know their children best, therefore, collaborative parent involvement is a vital component of a successful educational experience. The Paladin Gifted Program expects the parents of our students to be engaged and to be parents who provide support and advocacy on behalf of their child.

To this end we will work to establish a strong relationship and partnership between parents, teachers and school administrators to ensure we are meeting the needs of our highly advanced learners.

We encourage parents to work with us to form the **Paladin Gifted Parents Association in support of JMC Middle School.**